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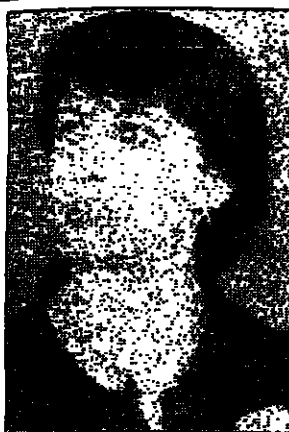
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NEWSWATCH



'Hurts' so bad!

Ballerina Sonda Jennings talks to reporters as she arrives at court for the opening of her palimony suit against Oscar-winning actor William Hurt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Details Page 3

Close call for kin

NICOSIA, June 20. (Reuters) Two of Ayatollah Khomeini's grandsons were wounded fighting in the Gulf war, one by Iraqi poison gas, a press interview with the Iranian leader's widow disclosed today.

Batol Saefi also told the Tehran weekly *Javanan* (Youth) that in nearly 60 years of marriage to Khomeini "he never spoke with an angry tone."

The Iranian news agency IRNA, reporting the interview in a dispatch received in Cyprus, said it was given about three months ago. Khomeini died on June 3 aged 86.

Saefi, who was 16 when she married, said Hassan Khomeini, 17, son of the Ayatollah's surviving son and chief aide Ahmed, sustained chemical wounds during an Iranian operation at the Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabja.

Asked by the *Javanan* interviewer whether Khomeini was a good husband the widow replied: "Very good. I am very satisfied with him. He has always been respectful towards me. He has never spoken with an angry tone."

Let's make a deal

WASHINGTON, June 20. (UPI) President Bush told congressional leaders today he would reconsider the US arms control proposal to ban mobile nuclear missiles if Congress decides to build both the railroad MX and truck-borne Midgetman missiles.

Dust-off for Faisal

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 20. (AP) A bronze statue of Iraq's first monarch, King Faisal I, will be reinstalled in a Baghdad square, 31 years after it was knocked down by demonstrators during the coup that overthrew the monarchy, an Iraqi newspaper reported today.

Talk-athon still on

NEW DELHI, June 20. (Reuters) A 57-year-old Indian broke the record for non-stop talking today but still has some things he wants to get off his chest, 11 days after he began a marathon lecture at a south India beach resort.

S.E. Jayaraman who talked his way into the 1987 edition of *Guinness Book of World Records* with a 200-hour monologue, was still chattering away after 270 hours at an hotel in Madras. The Press Trust of India reported he was talking of going on for 360 hours.

Doc kills for cash

TOKYO, June 20. (AP) A doctor was arrested today after confessing that he obtained 25 million yen (\$174,000) from a patient for a promised kidney transplant and then killed the patient, police said.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the doctor as Jun Hirose, a urologist at Hamamatsu Medical College, 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Tokyo.

Lie started early

JERUSALEM, June 20. (AP) In a rare moment of candor about his personal life, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir revealed today he was so determined to come here from Poland in 1935 that he lied to get around British restrictions.

Shamir applied and was accepted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem that year even though he had no plans to study. The acceptance paved the way for an entry permit from the British.

Live ... and let die

BOURNE, Massachusetts, June 20. (UPI) An elderly couple terminally ill with cancer died early today in an apparent case of murder and suicide, police said.

Police said Howell Morris, 72, called about 4.45 am to report he had shot his wife, Margaret, about 72, and was going to kill himself.

When police arrived at the couple's home they found both dead.

Afro-Arab investment institution to be set up

Kuwaiti proposal endorsed

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT, June 20: The Standing Commission for Afro-Arab co-operation has endorsed a proposal by Kuwait aimed at establishing a joint financial and investment institution.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said that Kuwait made the proposal to emphasise that co-operation between the two groups should be

based on practical foundation.

"Kuwait had put forward this proposal to materialise our long-spoken-of slogans of co-operation," Sheikh Sabah said.

The proposal will be referred to Afro-Arab finance ministers to work out the details.

The standing commission ended its two-day conference today.

The commission decided to hold the first Afro-Arab trade fair in October, 1990.

The commission agreed to set up a cultural institute in one of the African countries. It will initially have budget of half a million dollars.

KUNA adds: Addressing closing session of the commission, Sheikh Sabah said: "Our first concern in this meeting is to come out with a solid basis for Afro-Arab co-operation to further boost the bonds of fraternity and dialogue existing between our two groups."

"Thank God that by virtue of our deliberations we now have a clear vision regarding enhancing our joint co-operation."

Sheikh Sabah expressed hope that an appropriate formula for Afro-Arab co-operation would be developed within the coming few days.

Speaking at a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klubi said that Arabs and Africans have identical positions toward all issues of discussion and that "the difficulties are circumstantial ones that we had overcome in the past and we'll surpass the rest to push forward co-operation between the two sides toward the sought goal."

He also praised the "great and positive" Kuwaiti initiative regarding the establishment of an Afro-Arab financial and investment institution.

He referred to the announcement of Sheikh Sabah that Kuwait is ready to be the first founder of such institution, which finance ministers of member states will discuss during the next meeting of the World Bank.

Sheikh Sabah's brief speech at the closing session was preceded by closing remarks of four representatives, namely Syria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Burkina Faso.

All the four representatives urged the conferees to adopt the inaugural speech of HH the Amir yesterday as the conference's official document.

The Syrian representative said that the Amir's speech has set the practical basis for co-operation between African and Arab states.

He also thanked the African side for their understanding and co-operation, which led to the fruitful resolutions realised by the two-day meetings.

He affirmed that African and Arab states share similar goals and face common enemies, which try to colonise them, pointing out to the racist regimes in Tel Aviv and Pretoria.

The Tunisian representative also called for adopting Amir's speech as the official document of the conference.

'Mossad infiltrates terrorist cell'

Proof claimed of strike for Hamadi

BONN, June 20. (AP) West Germany security officials have concrete evidence that terrorists are planning an attack on an airline at Frankfurt airport, a magazine reported today.

The Hamburg-based *Stern* magazine said police have evidence that terrorists are planning the attack in an attempt to free convicted TWA hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi and two imprisoned members of the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Hamadi is serving a life sentence after being convicted of air piracy and murder in the 1985 hijacking to Beirut.

Frankfurt police last week said security had been stepped up at the sprawling airport, West Germany's busiest and that there were indications that a

terrorist attack linked to Hamadi was being planned.

Stern, quoting unidentified sources, said that West German security officials had been tipped to the possible attack by Israel.

The magazine said that an agent for the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, had attended a secret meeting of Palestinian groups.

Stern said the Israeli warning quoted participants of the meeting as saying that "the time is right to free the fighters from prison."

"It is time to carry out the great attack," the warning quoted the meeting participants as saying. "The means are in our hands, we possess a weapon that will drown many in West Germany in blood and tears."

Turks flee

Kuwait voices concern

KUWAIT, June 20. (Agencies) Kuwait Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Majid Al Shaheen yesterday summoned the Bulgarian ambassador here to convey Kuwait's concern over reports that Muslims of Bulgaria have been experiencing difficulties in practising their Islamic beliefs. A ministry source said the issue arouses Islamic feelings.

Shaheen told the ambassador, Kuwait has confidence in Bulgarian government's ability to handle this issue.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Bulgarian villages are being emptied as ethnic Turks head for the border and a new life in the land of their ancestors.

In the square of the small village of Kachinovo, nestled in the hills of northeastern Bulgaria, groups of men, faces tanned and hands calloused from work in the fields, sit idly in the sun and wait.

"Where is the mayor?" An old man was asked. "He's already left for Turkey," was the reply. Over 120 of the villagers have already left for Turkey. The remaining 1,000 are waiting to go.

According to Turkish estimates, between 30,000 and 40,000 ethnic Turks have already crossed the border.

Kachinovo was the scene of a peaceful demonstration in May by ethnic Turks demanding a return of the Turkish names they were made to give up for Slavic ones in a forced assimilation drive in 1984 and 1985.

The protest was violently crushed by police and troops. One man in the almost wholly Turkish village was killed and many injured. Several other deaths were reported in nearby villages.

Turkish and Western diplomats put the number of deaths at between 10 and 30. According to the Bulgarian authorities, only three people died during the disorders.

"They took away our names, they forbade us to speak our language, even among ourselves, they destroyed our Muslim traditions," an old man said.

Beijing sees foreign hand

'Borrow their courage'

BEIJING, June 20. (Agencies) Beijing radio charged today that reactionaries in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and Macao supported and helped plot the student-led democracy movement in China.

It quoted a Beijing professor as

radio said.

"After many interrogations" he confessed his true identity, it said.

The 21 students as well as three leaders of independent labour unions have been accused officially of stirring up a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" after the spontaneous pro-democracy demonstrations that erupted in mid-April.

After weeks of mass protests in central Tiananmen Square, Communist Party hardliners declared martial law on May 20 and two weeks later sent in troops with tanks to crush the demonstrators.

Hundreds died in the repression, prompting a storm of international protest, notably in the United States and the foreign-ruled Chinese territories Hong Kong and Macao, which will revert to rule by Beijing at the end of the century.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

UK to review equality in blasphemy

LONDON, June 20. (Reuters) A British Muslim group yesterday won a victory in its court battle to bring author Salman Rushdie and his publishers to trial for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

High court judge Michael Nolan granted the British Muslim Action Front permission to challenge an earlier ruling that Rushdie could not be tried because under British law blasphemy only applied to Christianity.

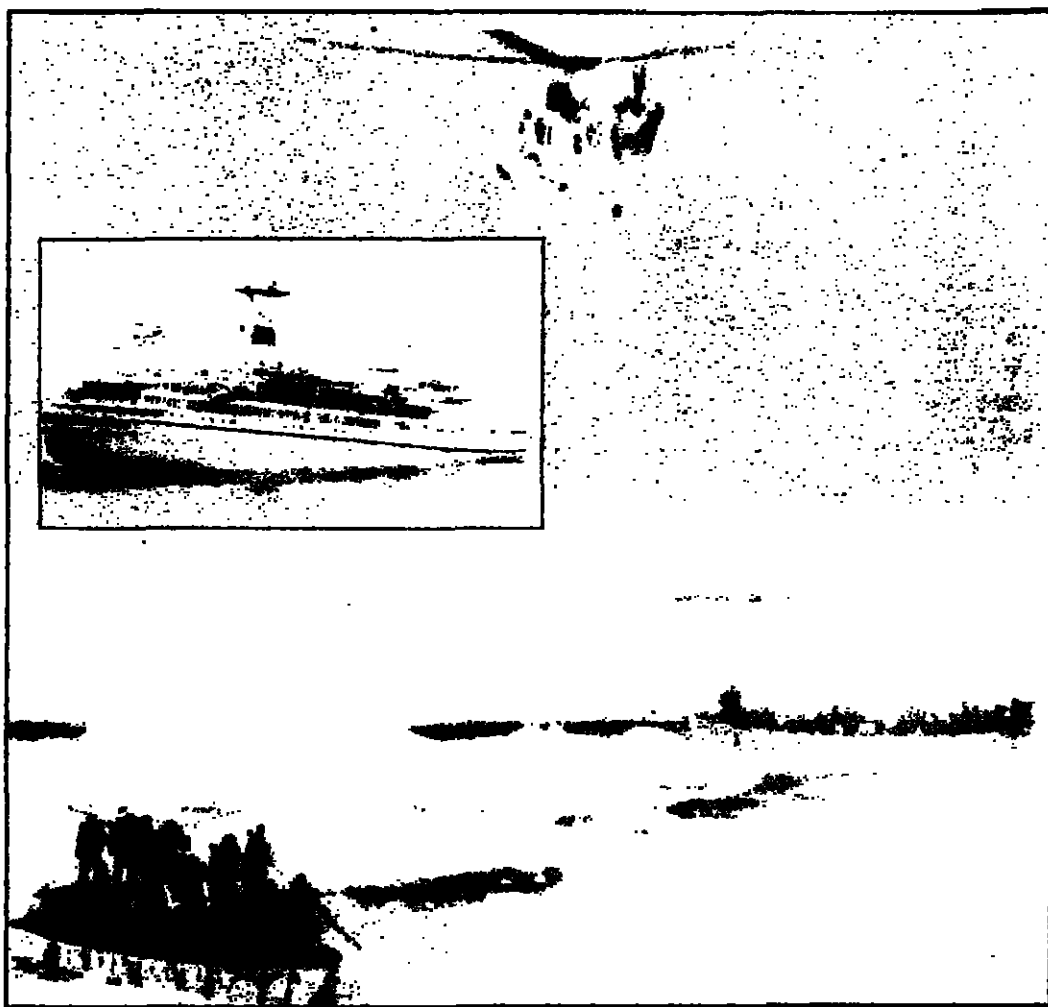
Lawyer Ali Azhar hailed the judge's decision as historic and said: "We will now seek to show that

any religion, including Islam, can be included in the offence of blasphemy."

The next move was to find Rushdie, who did not appear in court, in order to serve legal papers on him.

The Indian-born British author has been in hiding under police guard since late February spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini last February announced The Satanic Verses as blasphemous and ordered Muslims to kill its author.

No date was set for a new hearing.



Passengers from the Soviet liner are picked up from their life boat. (Inset) The *Maksim Gorkiy* seen listing with three decks under water. (Reuters wirephoto)

Titanic trial

Soviet liner hits iceberg

LONGYEARBYEN, Spitzbergen, June 20. (Reuters) Elderly holiday-makers, some in pyjamas, others in fur coats thrown over nightgowns, were rescued by boat and helicopter today after their Soviet cruise liner hit an iceberg deep inside the Arctic Circle.

"It was a very successful rescue operation. Nobody at all of the 611 passengers and 379 crew was injured," said Leif Eldring, governor of the Norwegian Arctic island of Spitzbergen to which passengers from the 25,000-ton *Maksim Gorkiy* were evacuated.

Passengers said they heard a loud bang and a scraping sound as the luxury liner hit the iceberg in fog in the Greenland Sea north of Norway shortly after midnight.

"After the sirens went, it was a bit hectic. We were told by crew to come on deck and put on life jackets. It was cold and raining heavily," said West German passenger Marianne Finne. Holed in two places, the *Maksim Gorkiy* began listing, bow down, but its captain was reported to believe the vessel could be saved.

As the liner took in water, hundreds of bewildered passengers, most of them elderly West Germans, were hustled into lifeboats and lowered into the water.

"My lifeboat kept hitting against the side of the ship. People were very frightened and there was ice everywhere," said Brigitte Fruhwald, 52, from Munich.

"The crew thought the lifeboat was damaged and about 90 of us left the boat and climbed onto the ice itself where we waited for about an hour," she said.

The temperature was around one

degree Centigrade (34 Fahrenheit).

Norwegian helicopters and the Coast Guard vessel *Senja* were quickly on the scene.

"We had to break through a belt of ice three nautical miles wide and 2.5 metres (eight feet) thick which slowed us up before reaching the *Maksim Gorkiy*," said Sigurd Kleiven, an officer aboard the *Senja*.

Adolf Kuhn, 73, described how his lifeboat was left hanging over the side of the ship for two hours, suspended in mid-air because there was too much ice to launch it.

"Finally we were launched but there were major shortcomings with the lifeboats. There was only a lot of alcohol and no drinking water," he said.

"The captain was going way too fast," said Rudolf Ludwig, a 67-year-old passenger from Wiesbaden who was evacuated by helicopter to Longyearbyen, the capital of the Spitzbergen island chain on Svalbard.

"Suddenly there was a terrible crash that almost shook me from my bed," Ludwig said by telephone.

Most of the other passengers were at a shipboard night club when the ship hit the ice.

The collision ripped two holes in the hull, according to a damage estimate made by Sigurd Kleiven, skipper of the Norwegian Coast Guard vessel *Senja*.

The Soviet cruise ship that hit an iceberg in the Arctic early Tuesday was expected to sail for the Norwegian island of Spitzbergen aided by Soviet repair vessel, a spokesman for the Bodoe Rescue Centre in northern Norway said.

Test tales

KUWAIT'S Minister of Planning Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has described as "baseless" reports of a proposal to "test expatriates for jobs."

Reports in some sections of the press claimed that a proposal was made to set up a panel of experts to test and examine expatriates seeking jobs in Kuwait. The reports claimed the issue was raised at an inter-ministerial meeting to discuss ideas for the 1990/1995 five-year plan.

The formation of a committee to examine or select the expatriates seeking work in Kuwait is baseless.

He added a ministerial committee formed in April by the cabinet will meet next week to prepare guidelines to regulate manpower. Its report will be submitted to the cabinet.

The government is trying to streamline the deployment of manpower and reduce dependence on expatriates. It also wants to reduce the current imbalance between the expatriate and Kuwaiti workforce.

DAY BY DAY

MORE entertainment facilities should be set up for the benefit of those who are forced — for financial reasons or otherwise — to remain here during the long summer months.

It isn't a matter of providing new TV programmes but rather a greater and better variety of entertainment.

This problem should be looked into since public boredom desperately needs to be alleviated.

Zahed Matar

'Cry for bread, sugar ... and me'

Plot ran long, deep

CAIRO, June 20. (Agencies) Sudanese security officials say 19 tanks as well as paratroopers and air defence service personnel were to have joined in a foiled coup to restore former president Jaafar Nimeiri to power, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported today.

A dispatch from the Sudanese capital Khartoum quoted the security officials as saying the plotters had been under government surveillance for as long as three years.

Sudan's military command announced Sunday that it had thwarted an alleged pro-Nimeiri coup attempt planned for yesterday. The exiled ex-president, who was overthrown in a military coup April 6, 1985, denied plans for such a coup.

In its report today, MENA quoted Abdel Rahman Farah, security adviser to Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, as saying that 48 civilians and 28 military officers on active duty were involved in the coup plot.

Security has been tightened at Sudanese airports and sea ports to prevent the escape of alleged plotters still at large, Farah told the Egyptian agency. He said arrests were continuing but did not say how many were in custody.

Nimeiri today denied involvement in a failed coup there but promised: "I will return to save Sudan from corruption."

"It is the start of a popular revolution which will

be followed by other revolutions until the present government is ousted," Nimeiri, living in exile in Cairo since he was deposed in 1985, told Reuters in an interview.

Demonstrators calling for Nimeiri's return attacked shops in Khartoum city centre on Sunday and yesterday in protest at food and transport shortages.

"It is the revolution of the hungry people. The Sudanese people have no food, no medicine and no shelter. It is only normal that they rise against the government," he said.

Interviewed at his luxury two-storey villa in the fashionable Cairo suburb of Heliopolis, Nimeiri said Egypt had no role in the foiled coup.

He said the accusation made by Khartoum newspapers was unfounded.

"Mahdi wanted to divert the attention of the Sudanese people and the entire world from corruption at home and as usual he tried to link what happened to Egypt," Nimeiri said.

The ousted president said thousands of Sudanese people came to Egypt every week seeking medicine and food.

"Many come to me. They come to their former leader seeking help. Every Sudanese is welcome to visit my home," said Nimeiri.

Referring to the protest reports from Khartoum, he said: "They are not chanting only for Nimeiri's return ... they are crying for bread and sugar."



'No, wasn't me'

Former Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri in his national dress at his Cairo house after denying any involvement in a foiled coup which he said was the start of a popular revolution which will bring him back to power. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippine ambush

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines, June 20, (AP): Six suspected communist assassins, armed with semi-automatic rifles, shot and killed the vice mayor of a northern Philippine town today, a military report said.

Capt. Francisco Villamor, Philippine constabulary area commander, identified the slain official as Leovigildo Pangan, 55, vice mayor of the town of Santa Ana in Pangasinan province, 56 kms (35 miles) north of Manila.

Villamor said Pangan was aboard a passenger jeep when six members of the New People's Army, disguised as government troops, flagged down Pangan's vehicle as it headed to a meeting of village chiefs.

Highway robbery

OZAMIS, Philippines, June 20, (Reuters): A gang of robbers fired on a jeepney minibus on a southern Philippine highway, killing eight passengers and wounding eight others, police said yesterday.

Police, quoting survivors, said the jeepney was approaching Basilan town, 140 km (85 miles) northwest of Ozamis on Mindanao Island, when 10 gunmen appeared on the road and opened fire.

Survivors said the robbers fled on foot after stripping the victims of cash, jewellery and other valuables.

Women campaign

TOKYO, June 20 (KUNA): Japanese women organisations continued their campaign today against Japanese Prime Minister Sosuke Uno and called on him to resign in the wake of reports of his earlier affair with a girl from geisha clubs.

The Kawasaki Municipality Council agreed that Uno should resign if these rumours turn out to be true.

Korean peace talks

SEOUL, June 20, (AP): North Korea said today it was ready to resume parliamentary talks with South Korea on easing tensions, but it also denounced Seoul for arresting a top dissident and called for his release.

The North Korea delivered a letter at the Panmunjom border truce site proposing that the stalled talks resume on June 28, South Korean officials said. The North's letter was in response to a South Korean call on May 26 to resume talks to set terms for a meeting of the two sides' parliaments.

US denial

SEOUL, June 20, (AP): The United States has formally denied that it played a part in the bloody military suppression of a 1980 civil uprising in the southern city of Kwangju that left some 200 people dead, officials said today.

The US State Department stated its position in a letter to a South Korean parliamentary special committee investigating the nine-day armed revolt in Kwangju, 280 kms (175 miles) southwest of Seoul, the officials said.

AYC meeting

KATHMANDU, June 20, (AP): The second executive meeting of the Kuala Lumpur-based Asian Youth Council was opened yesterday by Nepal's National Assembly chairman, Navraj Subedi.

Representatives from Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka were attending the two-day meeting.

AYC is a voluntary association of Asian youth council co-ordinating committees headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Assam blast kills 10

GUWAHATI, June 20, (UPI): Suspected tribal militants in northeastern Assam today exploded a powerful bomb at a railway station, killing at least 10 people and injuring about 20 others, police said.

They said they believed Bodo extremists seeking a separate state for their hill tribe to be carved out of Assam set off the bomb at the railway station at Kokrajhar, about 750 miles (1,200 km) east of New Delhi. The blast killed at least 10 people and injured about 20 others, police said.

Golden temple

NEW DELHI, June 20, (KUNA): The Indian government has decided to construct a 10-metre corridor outside the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine, and scene of the "Operation Blue Star" in 1984.

Missing Americans

BANGKOK, June 20, (AP): Vietnam tomorrow will turn over the remains of what it believes are 28 American servicemen missing from the Vietnam war, a US military spokesman said today.

Maj Dan Trout said a US military team is planning to fly to Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, to retrieve the remains in a brief ceremony before bringing them back to the United States.

Largest festival

BEIJING, June 20, (UPI): The largest religious festival held since martial law was declared in the Tibetan capital more than three months ago drew tens of thousands of worshippers and religious figures, the Xinhua news agency reported today.

The Sagana festival, which celebrates the birth and achievement of Nirvana by Buddha, took place without incident yesterday in Lhasa, the agency said.

Meeting on Angola

KINSHASA, June 20, (AP): Leaders of 11 African countries will meet on Thursday in Gbadolite to discuss a political settlement in Angola, the government announced today.

Gold smuggling

PRAQUE, June 20, (Reuters): Customs officials have seized more than \$500,000 worth of gold and cash, cracking the biggest known smuggling operation in Czechoslovakia, the state news agency CTK reported today.

Foreign policy to be major issue in election

NEW DELHI, June 20, (Reuters): A bitter row with Sri Lanka over the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island and a trade war with Nepal threaten to overshadow Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's early diplomatic successes in an election year.

Analysts said today the two issues gave the opposition a chance to make Rajiv's Congress (I) Party's foreign policy record a major issue for the first time in a general election, which he must call by the end of the year.

On Sri Lanka, Rajiv has rejected President Ranasinghe Premadasa's demand for the pullout by July 29 of 45,000 troops of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) sent under an accord between Rajiv and Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene.

On Nepal, Rajiv has refused to renew trade arrangements which control the entry of nearly all imports into the landlocked Himalayan kingdom from India because of perceived moves to improve ties with China.

India's best-known opposition leader, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has already said he intends to make Sri Lanka and Nepal part of his campaign platform for the polls.

The opposition will focus criticism on the loss of nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers in operations carried out by the IPKF against Tamil rebels, said former foreign secretary A.P. Venkateswaran.

"The main concern of the Indian government is that it has no way of justifying the issue to the public — what we have achieved there by sending our troops, by losing so many Indian lives and spending (millions) of rupees," he said.

"These are questions that are bound to be asked after the withdrawal is completed and particularly during an election campaign," Venkateswaran said.

The troops, sent to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil rebels under the 1987 accord, are now in danger of turning into an occupation force, said Ashis Nandi of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

Newspaper reports from Colombo, unconfirmed by the Sri Lankan government, say Sri Lanka may take the issue to the UN Security Council or the International Court at the Hague if India refuses to comply with the July 29 deadline.

"Such a move will immediately make the IPKF an occupation force and tarnish India's reputation as a mature nation in the Third World as well as reinforce suspicions among its neighbours of being a regional bully," Nandi said.

He said the damage to India's international standing could lose Gandhi the goodwill he earned with visits to the United States and the Soviet Union.

COLOMBO, June 20, (Agencies): President Ranasinghe Premadasa, faced with a crippling transport strike and increasing civil unrest, imposed a nation-wide state of emergency today.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament that Premadasa proclaimed the state of emergency to control unrest believed to be sponsored by Sinhalese extremists. The President had lifted a similar state of emergency six months earlier.

The proclamation, which went into effect immediately, lasts for one month and can be extended by Parliament every month.

"It has been necessary ... to declare a state of emergency to ensure the proper conduct of public utility services and protect the people," Wijeratne said. He also serves as deputy defence minister.

Emergency regulations give the police and the military broad powers to arrest and detain suspects without warrants or other judicial requirements. Authorities can also dispose of bodies without inquests.

A senior government official said on condition of not being identified the emergency was approved by a key group of government lawmakers known as the parliamentary group.

Sinhalese extremists, mostly belonging to the left-wing People's Liberation Front (JVP), are believed to have spearheaded an eight-day-old strike by workers of the state-owned public transport company.

The strike by 20,000 workers of the Sri Lanka Transport Board, which has turned violent, forced more than 4,000 buses off the road.

Police say strike sponsors have threatened private bus and taxi drivers and last week set 15 buses afire. As a result, most vehicles used for transport have stopped work and government offices have reported a drop in attendance.

"Public services, including transport, have been paralysed by forcing the workers to keep away from work," Wijeratne said.

Since it began an anti-government campaign in 1987, the Sinhalese front has been blamed for killing more than 3,500 people, most of whom were government officials or ruling party activists.

Wijeratne said more than 1,700 people have been killed since January, of whom 965 were politicians, government officials and police.

There has been progressive escalation of violence, acts of sabotage and disruption of essential services throughout the country," he said. "Under such a situation, the government cannot look on inactively."

The Sinhalese militants launched their anti-government drive to protest peace overtures made to rebels of the Tamil community, who have been fighting for an independent nation since 1983.

The insurrection forced Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, to impose emergency laws in May 1983.

Radical admits to bombing

AMRITSAR, India, June 20, (Reuters): A Sikh extremist admitted publicly today that he planted a bomb which ripped through New Delhi Railway Station earlier this month killing 10 people and injuring more than 30.

"I committed the crime. You may punish me for what I have done. I promise not to repeat such a foolish act," Nishan Singh, 29, told a news conference.

Police said Nishan Singh and Dalbir Singh, whom they accused of planting the bomb on June 12, were arrested near the Sikh holy city Amritsar yesterday.

Police said the two men were captured while carrying plastic explosives and detonators used for making bombs and had confessed to various crimes, including the station bombing.

They said Dalbir Singh did not appear before reporters because he had been taken elsewhere to recover evidence connected with their alleged crimes.

Amritsar Police Superintendent Sanjiv Gupta said both men were members of the Bindrawale Tiger Force of Khalistan (BTFK), one of several groups fighting for an independent Sikh homeland in the north Indian state Punjab.

Police said the BTFK is led by Satnam Singh Satta.

China lashes out

(Continued from Page 1)



Beijing patrol

People's Liberation Army soldiers armed with automatic weapons patrol the streets of Beijing. The city marks one month of imposition of martial law. The military occupation began when troops marched on Tiananmen Square on June 4. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese exodus begins

Manila cool to asylum seekers

MANILA, June 20, (AP): Chinese refugees have sailed to the Philippines in what the United Nations says could be the beginning of an illegal exodus following the June 3-4 crackdown in China, officials said today.

Karola Paul, deputy representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said a group of 16 men and two women arrived June 13 aboard a wooden boat in Batanes province, 670 kilometres (410 miles) north of Manila.

According to Miss Paul, the commission issued a notice to its offices in the region on June 12 that Chinese may try to leave the mainland following the Army massacre in Beijing to end a pro-democracy movement. Thousands were killed or wounded.

Miss Paul said she did not know where the Chinese "boat people" came from but would ask Philippine authorities to grant custody to her agency. At the closest, the northern Philippines lies about 440 kilometres (400 miles) from China across the South China Sea.

The Chinese, who did not have travel documents, were brought

to the Philippine Army headquarters in Manila and would be interviewed by immigration officials, she said.

"To me they are asylum seekers," Miss Paul said. "We have been alerted of an outflow from China since the turmoil. But it would be very difficult to say if there will be more."

She said she was not aware of other arrivals in other offices in the region.

Meanwhile, two Manila newspapers reported today that the Philippine embassy in Beijing had received "feelers" from Chinese students seeking asylum but was discouraging them for fear of offending the Beijing government.

Malaya and the Manila Chronicle quoted an unidentified source in the department of foreign affairs as saying the decision to discourage applicants was taken on the recommendation of Philippine diplomats in the Chinese capital.

"It would not be favourable for the Philippines because we do not have the muscle to do what the US is doing," the newspapers quoted the source as saying. "We don't have a bargaining chip with China."

President Bush exhorted

graduating high school students in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, yesterday to show the same idealism and devotion to country that led Chinese students to confront heavily armed soldiers and die for democracy.

"We do not have to stand in front of tanks in America — thank God. But we do have to summon the same courage to confront the evil that exists in the world," Bush said.

The United States has formally urged Chinese leaders to show clemency to individuals sentenced to death for their part in that country's recent unrest and end a wave of mass arrests, the White House said today.

Sentences of death in Shanghai and Beijing could only deepen the wounds of the past few weeks," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in announcing that the US appeal had been delivered to Chinese Ambassador Han Xu last night.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made a similar appeal, a UN spokeswoman said.

At least 11 death sentences have been handed down since troops and tanks crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing and other cities earlier this month.

US Secretary of State James Baker expressed disappointment today at Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's failure to criticise the suppression of the pro-democracy demonstrators.

State radio quoting a letter from the unnamed professor, said today the recent turmoil in China was caused by "very small cliques who hate our country" and was "supported, encouraged and plotted by reactionary forces abroad."

It went on: "Hong Kong and Macao forces have for a long time engaged in reactionary propaganda..."

"Some illegal organisations ... based in Canada and the United States spared no effort to encourage this movement."

"The United States which claimed during this movement to be friendly to China played an inglorious role."

"Fang Lizhi (China's top dissident now sheltering in the American embassy) and his like got encouragement and support from the United States. This is a fact known to all."

"American embassy staff and journalists were constant visitors to Fang's house," the letter went on. "Student movement leader Wang Dan always followed Fang Lizhi and (his wife) Li Shuxian."

State radio also broadcast a call to all citizens to give painstaking study to a newly-published collection of speeches and essays by senior leader Deng Xiaoping, due to hit the book-stalls soon.

It emphasised a chapter condemning "Bourgeois liberalism," communist jargon for Western democratic ideas.

Against this background of strident attacks on foreigners, Chinese guards today turned away droves of Beijing citizens queuing for visas to go abroad.

It followed a bureaucratic decision which effectively seals China's borders to anyone who took part in the recent protests.

People outside the US embassy said refuse effective from today meant that a person wishing to leave China must show a letter from a supervisor certifying their political purity.

The restrictions on foreign travel, part of the overall crackdown on dissent, are the work of the newly-dominant hardline leadership in Beijing.

Signs over the last few days indicated a top party body — possibly the 175-member central committee but more likely its ruling politburo — would meet very soon to give formal approval to a new post-Zhao line-up.

President Bush exhorted graduating high school students in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, yesterday to show the same idealism and devotion to country that led Chinese students to confront heavily armed soldiers and die for democracy.

"We do not have to stand in front of tanks in America — thank God. But we do have to summon the same courage to confront the evil that exists in the world," Bush said.

about the environmental effects on fish," he said.

Okubo said the water samples, to be taken from eight locations by a maritime safety agency survey vessel, will be analyzed by experts. He said results are expected to be announced as early as September.

"But even if radioactivity is found among the samples, it will be very hard to distinguish (whether it came from the bomb or) from that of nuclear tests," he said.

In the Dec 5, 1965 accident, an A-4 Skyhawk plane carrying the one-megaton H-bomb rolled off the carrier Ticonderoga about 130 kilometres (80 miles) from a small island in Okinawa, southern Japan, according to US officials.

A bomb has an explosive force equivalent to 1 million tons of TNT.

The bomb and the plane settled in the seabed after its radioactivity material had

dissolved into the seawater, according to an official US report, released by the Japanese government last month.

Okubo said testing the seabed where the bomb sank would be inconclusive because scientists have no previous samples to compare them with.

Last month, nuclear expert William Arkin of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, which released a declassified US Navy document, said there was little danger the bomb would detonate.

Sri Lanka imposes state of emergency

Efforts to contain violence

COLOMBO, June 20, (Agencies): President Ranasinghe Premadasa, faced with a crippling transport strike and increasing civil unrest, imposed a nation-wide state of emergency today.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament that Premadasa proclaimed the state of emergency to control unrest believed to be sponsored by Sinhalese extremists. The President had lifted a similar state of emergency six months earlier.

The proclamation, which went into effect immediately, lasts for one month and can be extended by Parliament every month.

"It has been necessary ... to declare a state of emergency to ensure the proper conduct of public utility services and protect the people," Wijeratne said. He also serves as deputy defence minister.

Emergency regulations give the police and the military broad powers to arrest and detain suspects without warrants or other judicial requirements. Authorities can also dispose of bodies without inquests.

A senior government official said on condition of not being identified the emergency was approved by a key group of government lawmakers known as the parliamentary group.

Sinhalese extremists, mostly belonging to the left-wing People's Liberation Front (JVP), are believed to have spearheaded an eight-day-old strike by workers of the state-owned public transport company.

The strike by 20,000 workers of the Sri Lanka Transport Board, which has turned violent, forced more than 4,000 buses off the road.

Police say strike sponsors have threatened private bus and taxi drivers and last week set 15 buses afire. As a result, most vehicles used for transport have stopped work and government offices have reported a drop in attendance.

"Public services, including transport, have been paralysed by forcing the workers to keep away from work," Wijeratne said.

Since it began an anti-government campaign in 1987, the Sinhalese front has been blamed for killing more than 3,500 people, most of whom were government officials or ruling party activists.

Wijeratne said more than 1,700 people have been killed since January, of whom 965 were politicians, government officials and police.

There has been progressive escalation of violence, acts of sabotage and disruption of essential services throughout the country," he said. "Under such a situation, the government cannot look on inactively."

The Sinhalese militants launched their anti-government drive to protest peace overtures made to rebels of the Tamil community, who have been fighting for an independent nation since 1983.

The insurrection forced Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, to impose emergency laws in May 1983.

Three die in Soviet riots

53 hurt in clashes

MOSCOW, June 20, (Agencies): Native Kazakhs rampaged for four nights in Kazakhstan against merchants from the Caucasus, leaving three dead and 53 injured in the latest pogroms that have swept areas of three central Asian republics, Tass said today.

As day dawned after a night of arson in the Kazakh town of Novy Uzen, the Kazakhs had set up a yurt, their native tent, in the front of city hall as an apparent protest symbol of their minority status in their own republic, where they comprise 36 per cent of the population of 16 million.

The official Tass news agency said the Kazakhs rampaged from Friday night until last night burning and wrecking businesses, stores and homes of Transcaucasian peoples, apparently meaning either Georgians, Armenians or Azerbaijanis, the three peoples inhabiting those Caucasus republics.

"Three people were killed and 53 injured during mass disorders in Novy Uzen, Kazakhstan, between June 16 and June 19," Tass reported.

"Hoodlums, armed with sticks, iron rods and stones, have formed themselves into groups and are staging pogroms in houses, shops and administrative buildings and are attacking passerby in housing developments and on the city's streets," Tass said in its initial report.

Official reports said that extra police and hundreds of Interior Ministry soldiers were brought in to Novy Uzen, about 1,700 kilometres (1,050 miles) south-east of Moscow, to quell the violence.

A man who answered the telephone at emergency headquarters set up in Novy Uzen said a 9 pm - 6 am curfew had been imposed. The man, who identified himself only as Murzagalev, said a demonstration had been held today but refused to give more details and hung up.

Kazakhstan is the largest central Asian republic. Ethnic Russians make up 40.8 per cent of its population of 16 million, native Kazakhs comprise 36 per cent of the people, Ukrainians 6.1 per cent and the remaining residents are split among nearly 100 nationalities.

The River Gumti breached the mud embankment at four places since Sunday in Comilla, inundating several thousand acres (hectares) of crop. Alim Hussain, a Comilla district official, said by telephone.

The deluge swept away thousands of mud-and-straw houses in about 100 villages of the district, 88 kilometres (55 miles) southeast of Dhaka, said a Comilla official who arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

Many people had taken refuge on the roofs of intact houses but were marooned as rescue work had not yet begun, said the official, requesting anonymity.

Hundreds of people were camped in the open on roads and along the unbroken portions of the embankment while rain continued yesterday, he said.

A senior official at the Relief Ministry said on condition of anonymity that the ministry was assessing the situation, and "We are planning to send relief to the affected areas in Comilla and Rangpur today."

Floods sweep away houses

DHAKA, June 20, (AP): A major river in Bangladesh, flooded by heavy rains, burst through its embankment, washing away thousands of huts and leaving at least 50,000 people homeless, officials said yesterday.

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Siachen accord not yet

NEW DELHI, June 20, (KUNA): India has categorically denied that any agreement had been reached with Pakistan at the recent defence secretaries' meeting in Islamabad on withdrawal of troops by both countries in Siachen area to pre-1972 positions.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Dr Humayun Khan yesterday told newsmen at Islamabad airport that the two countries had agreed to redeploy their forces to the pre-1972 positions as it existed at the time of the signing of the Simla agreement.

An official spokesman here yesterday expressed surprise at Khan's statement and said he wondered on what basis Khan reached this conclusion.

"There was no indication of any such agreement in the joint press statement issued at the end of the four-day talks between the defence secretaries," the spokesman said.

He said Khan was not present at the talks held between the defence secretaries.

He noted that Indian Foreign Secretary SK Singh, who was present when Khan made the statement, did not react because he too had not participated in the talks.

Addressing a joint press conference at the Islamabad airport on Sunday Khan had said that the significance of the joint decision by the defence secretaries of the two countries was that a potential source of conflict between India and Pakistan would be removed.

"Now there is some problem as to what exactly these points were on ground in 1972. Therefore, the Army authorities on both sides have been instructed to be in touch with each other and locate these points," he had said.

The spokesman said the joint statement only indicates that there was an agreement on the approach and exploration of proposals. Also the Army authorities had been charged with the responsibility of examining the question and putting up proposals to their respective governments.

"There was an agreement on both sides to work towards a comprehensive settlement based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict, avoiding the use of force."

Bingo Day 8

63 37 88 33

Japan to test water for radioactivity where H-bomb was lost

TOKYO, June 20, (AP): Japan's Coast Guard will test water at the bottom of the ocean to see if a hydrogen bomb that dropped off a US aircraft carrier 24 years ago has polluted the area near a Japanese island, officials said today.

Michiaki Okubo, of the Science and Technology Agency's Nuclear Safety Bureau, said the deep-water survey will be carried out next month as part of a government study.

"We will check water samples to learn

about the environmental effects on fish," he said.

Okubo said the water



Actor William Hurt testifies at a trial in New York against his former lover. (Reuters wirephoto).

Love hurts, actor testifies

Ex-lover says Hurt violent

NEW YORK, June 20 (Agencies): A former ballerina said outside court yesterday during her testimony against Oscar-winning actor William Hurt that he falsely portrays himself as an "80's type man," but he actually has a violent streak toward women and once tried to strangle her.

Sandra Jennings' attack on the Oscar winner came during a lunch break in the trial, halting Hurt's testimony that at the start of their romance in 1981 he told her he believed that "spiritual marriage" reigned supreme over legal matrimony. "I believe I made a point about establishing a difference between a legal-business relationship and a commitment before God. To novices, it's called the separation of church and state," Hurt testified.

But he denied that he ever used the word "marriage" in any form to describe his relationship with Jennings, the mother of their son, Alexander, 6.

Hurt said that he has never referred to Jennings as "my wife ever. I knew it wasn't true so I didn't say it. I never called her my wife or my spouse."

Jennings, 32, who says she and her son are living at the poverty level on her current \$65,000 in annual child support, is suing to prove they had a common-law marriage and seeks half of Hurt's \$10-million in earnings.

The former member of the New York City Ballet, speaking with reporters outside State Supreme Court in Manhattan, said Hurt "told me we had a spiritual marriage. A marriage in the eyes

of God."

Hurt, 39, who sparked laughter in the courtroom with his barbed retorts to Jennings' lawyer's questions, was a different man than she knew, Jennings said.

"He's able to portray to the public a different image than he really is," she said. "A lot of people think he's this very '80s type man. Women look up to him and think, 'Isn't he wonderful'."

In private, she said, the actor was physically violent to her, and his battering drove her from the relationship after about two years. On one occasion, Hurt was speaking to her but was interrupted when she ran off to pick up their sobbing son, then 15 months.

"He knocked me down and just started strangling me. After that, that's when I decided I had to get out," Jennings said.

Hurt, who won an Oscar in 1986 for his role in "Kiss of the Spider Woman," told Richard Golub, Jennings' lawyer, the two met in Saratoga Springs, New York, in June 1981, began dating and discussed marriage at one point.

"I made my position very clear to her," said Hurt, who married band leader Skitch Henderson's daughter, Heidi, in March.

"What was your position?" asked Golub.

"That I wasn't going to be married again," Hurt answered, referring to his separation from his first wife, actress Mary Beth Hurt.

"What was that based on?" asked Golub.

"My failure at marriage and my family's failure at marriage. I had gotten burned," Hurt replied.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

TULSA, Oklahoma: Actress Liv Ullmann, who since 1980 has worked to support the United Nations Children's Fund, found an attentive audience in the 1,200 delegates to the General Federation of Women's Clubs meeting in Tulsa.

"We have enough of cynics, and they never move the world," she said.

She said she is glad to use her reputation as an actress to spread the word about the plight of the world's homeless and destitute children "because people tend to listen."

"If I can spread an awareness to one person, maybe I can change that person's life," she said.

Ullmann was the keynote speaker for the international convention of women involved in volunteer services. (AP)

BEVERLY HILLS: Zsa Zsa Gabor says she was handcuffed and made to sit in the street while being arrested on charges of slapping a policeman who had pulled over her white Rolls-Royce.

The actress was booked for investigation of evading a policeman, battery on a policeman, driving without a valid license, driving an unregistered car and driving with an open flask of whiskey, said Police Lieut James Smith.

She was released last Wednesday on her own recognizance.

Miss Gabor said she struck the officer in self-defence. "A lot of people stopped and said, 'How can you do that to Zsa Zsa?'" This is not a reason to confiscate a \$215,000 car and put handcuffs on me and make me sit in the street, the Hungarian-born actress said.

Gabor's car was later impounded.

In January, police in Atlanta escorted Miss Gabor off a jetliner after she refused to keep her dogs in travel kennels. (AP)

STATHAM, Georgia: Talk show host Johnny Carson says he is going to buy a new stove and refrigerator for two elderly sisters who spent 20 years fighting City Hall over their water bills.

"I was already thrilled she was on television," Carson, 79, said Saturday after watching her sister on Carson's "The Tonight Show." "But when he said he was going to give us the stove and the refrigerator — well, oh my, it was just great."

Carolyn Freeman, 70, told Carson on Friday night how she and her sister had told city officials for 20 years that they were paying their neighbour's water bill in addition to their own because both lines were connected to their meter.

Freeman described how she and her sister had skimped on water by taking sponge baths and eating canned beans to avoid using water to wash fresh vegetables.

The city finally relented in April and reimbursed them more than \$800.

When Carson asked how they planned to spend the \$800, Freeman said they would buy a new stove and refrigerator. (AP)

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee: Rising country music singer Suzy Boggess says life has changed since she was voted Best New Female Artist by the Academy of Country Music in April.

"After the award, my bookings quadrupled, the requests for interviews just flooded and everything seemed to happen," she said in a telephone interview last week.

"It's a lot different than two years ago when I went to 55 radio stations in the South and Midwest to see if they would play my music," the 32-year-old singer said. "I don't mind because I'm a travel nut and I measure my success by the places I've been."

By the time her concert tour ends this summer, she will have been on 47 of the 50 states. (AP)

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina: A little fear can take you a long way, astronaut Scott Carpenter told a group of 500 school children at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Mercury Planetarium.

"Everyone of us was scared, but there's nothing wrong with being scared," Carpenter said in response to a question. "A little fright helps you do all sorts of things better."

Carpenter was with six of the original seven Mercury astronauts who appeared Saturday at the festivities for the planetarium, which served as a training centre for astronauts from 1959 to 1973.

Donald "Deke" Slayton, Gordon Cooper, Scott, John Glenn, Walter Schirra and Alan Shepard were there for the visit, which also marked the 30th anniversary of the Mercury programme and the 20th anniversary next month of the Apollo 11 mission and Neil Armstrong's historic walk on the moon. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: After an 11-year hiatus, pianist Van Cliburn resumed his public performances last night to thunderous applause with a concert dedicated to two late friends.

The audience called the pianist back to the stage 13 times after he completed his programme of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Cliburn ended the evening with four encores.

"This is a very sentimental evening for me," Cliburn told the audience before the performance began. "This is an evening of remembrance of two wonderful friends."

An audience of 12,000 turned out at the Mann Music Centre for his appearance with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of guest conductor Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

The benefit was dedicated to Eugene Ormandy, who died five years after he retired from a 44-year career as music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and to Frederic Mann, who ran the centre renamed in his honour from 1949 until his death in 1987.

The proceeds will help finance continuation of the summer classical concerts.

"It's so good to be back with the Philadelphia Orchestra. It seems like I never left," Cliburn said.

Executive director Helen Martin said centre officials were "delighted" that Cliburn chose the open-air amphitheatre in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park for his first public concert since 1978.

A few weeks after winning the Tchaikovsky Prize in 1958, Cliburn made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut under Ormandy's baton in Amsterdam. The pianist's close association with the orchestra included a number of appearances in Philadelphia at the Mann and with Ormandy at the Academy of Music.

His last concert in Philadelphia was on July 24, 1978, the year he decided to end his public appearances after 20 years of juggling a frantic schedule that grew to 100 concerts a year. (AP)

NEW YORK: Ringo Starr will play drums and sing on his first tour since the Beatles broke up nearly 20 years ago, according to a published report.

The New York Times said Starr would formally announce today the details of the tour, which starts July 23 in Dallas and ends on Sept 3, in Los Angeles.

He will be accompanied in a nine-piece band by guitarist Joe Walsh, who produced Starr's last album, "Old Wave" in 1983. Billy Preston, the organist who played with the Beatles on the "Let It Be" album, former members of the band and Clarence Clemons, the saxophonist in Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band.

The tour was arranged by David Fishoff, who in recent years has produced the Beatles reunion tour and the "Dirty Dozen" tour.

The Times said Starr is considering using some of the songs he sang on Beatles recordings, including "Yellow Submarine," "With a Little Help From My Friends" and "Octopus's Garden."

CARSON CITY, Nevada: A killer who led a life of crime that culminated with his murder of a hobo for a wallet, a watch and some wine five years ago was executed by lethal injection yesterday, authorities said. William P. Thompson, 41, was given the lethal drug at 2:06 am and pronounced dead by a coroner at 2:14 am. Nevada State Prison officials said.

Thompson did not acknowledge the presence of witnesses and went quietly to his death. After being given the lethal injection, he lay still on a padded table, occasionally opening his eyes and staring at the ceiling, then closing them.

Thompson was the 112th person executed in the United States and the third in Nevada since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. Seven other men were executed earlier this year. The last execution in Nevada was in 1985.

JOHANNESBURG: Black American pop group the Commodores said yesterday it would perform in South Africa next month in defiance of a UN-backed international cultural boycott against apartheid.

The group, whose million-selling hits include "Night Shift," "Three Times A Lady" and "Zoozoo," said in a statement issued in South Africa its members were aware their visit to South Africa would anger opponents of apartheid.

"We will, by coming here, be making a strong commitment to encourage people to bring change," they said. "We believe that in order to implement and expedite change, dialogue must take place. If we can be an instrument towards that end, we will surely try."

The group said it was strongly opposed to any form of prejudice, particularly when entrenched by the government in South Africa or elsewhere.

It said it was aware of the United Nations boycott but was not worried by a blacklist of artists who defied the ban. Formerly blacklisted stars such as Frank Sinatra and Shirley Bassey, faced with protests wherever they performed, were forced to repudiate their South African visits.

The Commodores will arrive on July 4 and perform from July 7 to 16 in the resort of Sun City in Bophuthatane, one of four nominally-independent tribal homelands created by Pretoria and unrecognized outside South Africa. (Reuters)

SPACE CENTRE, Houston: NASA confirmed yesterday that astronaut S. David Griggs was flying aerobatic manoeuvres before he was killed in a plane crash Saturday, but the space agency's chief astronaut said such activity was not necessarily against policy.

Chief astronaut Daniel Brandenstein said in an interview that aerobatic flying by astronauts, even those assigned to upcoming missions such as Griggs, is not necessarily against NASA policy, saying, "We don't consider aerobatics as a high-risk activity."

"We consider a variety of things, things like auto racing, boat racing, airplane racing, motorcycle racing, those types of events (as high risk)," he said.

Griggs, veteran of a 1985 shuttle flight, had been in training to serve as a co-pilot of the shuttle Discovery for a classified military mission scheduled for launch Nov 19.

He was killed Saturday when the AT-6 World War II training plane he was piloting crashed near a private air strip just south of Earle, Ark., near the Tennessee border. (UPI)

WASHINGTON: A judge ruled yesterday that a mother who has been jailed for 22 months in a bitter custody dispute should remain incarcerated until she reveals her daughter's whereabouts or turns the child over to authorities.

Dr Elizabeth Morgan, a prominent Washington plastic surgeon, was jailed in August 1987 on contempt of court charges after refusing to produce her daughter Hilary for court-ordered visits with Eric Foretich, Morgan's ex-husband and the girl's father.

Dr Morgan has alleged that Foretich sexually abused Hilary. Foretich has repeatedly denied those charges. (AP)

Painful papal prose

Vatican venality viewed

VATICAN CITY, June 20, (Reuters): The most sought-after book inside the Vatican these days is not a new papal encyclical nor a controversial theological treatise.

It is a work which seeks to quash the tireless rumour that Pope John Paul I was murdered in 1978, but which paints the tiny walled city-state as the domain of bungling bureaucrats and spiteful misogynists.

"Everybody here is talking about it, wanting to borrow a copy from someone," a Vatican insider said about British journalist John Cornwell's new book, "A Thief in the Night."

Cornwell systematically and methodically challenges the murder allegations made popular by fellow Briton David Yallop in his 1984 international bestseller, "In God's Name."

Yallop claimed that a number of people in the Vatican had a motive for poisoning the newly-elected Albino Luciani because of institutional changes he intended to make.

Known as the "Smiling Pope" because of his good nature, Luciani reigned for only 33 days from August 26 until he died on September 28, 1978. The official cause of death was a heart attack.

Although Yallop's research methods were criticised by other journalists and his allegations hotly denied by the Vatican, his book was a thorn in the side of the Roman Catholic Church.

American priests visiting Rome told Vatican officials they did not know how to handle questions from their parishioners such as: "Father, why was the Smiling Pope poisoned?"

Cornwell, a 48-year-old former Roman Catholic seminarian, novelist and former journalist on the London Observer, was given unprecedented access to Vatican officials.

Some of them, such as papal doctor Renato Buzzonetti and Irish Archbishop John Magee, one of Pope Luciani's two

private secretaries, spoke to Cornwell only after being told that the current pope wanted them to.

Cornwell concludes that Pope John Paul I died from a pulmonary embolism resulting from his long standing blood circulation problems.

Although it clashes with the official cause of death, this conclusion is supported in the book by the current Vatican spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Vallas, and the late pope's niece, Lina Petri, who both studied medicine.

Cornwell in effect accuses the institution and its bureaucratic, byzantine ways of neglecting the pope's health and of causing widespread confusion by the way the news of his death was given to the world.

Andrew Greeley, a US priest and bestselling author, said Cornwell "portrays the Vatican as it really is: bumbling, venal, paranoiac, arrogant, frightened, ignorant, petty, inept."

Some of them, such as papal doctor Renato Buzzonetti and Irish Archbishop John Magee, one of Pope Luciani's two

'Sky used as waste dump'

Carcinogens emitted

WASHINGTON, June 20, (AP): US industrial plants are spewing 360 million pounds (163 kilograms) of suspected cancer-causing chemicals into the air annually with releases from each of the 30 biggest polluters exceeding 1 million pounds (450,000 kilograms), according to government statistics.

The pollution figures were released yesterday by a private environmental group and confirmed by the Environmental Protection Agency, which provided the raw statistics based on information provided by industry under a fledgling public disclosure law.

"Industries are using the sky as a garbage dump to dispose of hundreds of millions of pounds (kilograms) of unregulated cancer-causing chemicals," said Deborah Sheiman, author of the report from the Natural Resources Defence Council.

The NRDC identified more than 1,500 companies in 46 states that release substantial amounts of at least one of 13 cancer-causing chemicals into the air. Thirty of the companies reported releasing more than 1 million pounds (450,000 kilograms) of a particular carcinogen and several had releases five to nine times that amount, the group said.

While the EPA did not challenge the statistics, it stopped short of attempting to estimate the health risks posed by such releases.

Charles Elkins, director of the EPA's toxics programmes, said the raw figures cannot measure individuals' health risks because they do not take into account exposure levels.

A spokesman for one of the companies cited, Boeing Military Airplanes of Wichita, Kansas, said that while the company's Kansas plant releases 2.3 million pounds (1 million kilograms) of trichloroethylene, the releases are so diluted "the chemical is undetectable" in the air.

The spokesman, Richard Hill, said Boeing nevertheless is trying to develop a substitute for the chemical.

The Boeing plant ranked ninth among the biggest polluters cited in the NRDC report. The most

releases of any of the 13 carcinogens examined came from the plants of Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, New York. The company reported 8.9 million pounds (4 million kilograms) of methylene chloride were released during 1987, according to the EPA figures.

David Doniger, an NRDC attorney, acknowledged that the raw figures provide no assessment of health risk to residents near the plants, but maintained "these pollutants have to be considered dangerous at any level of exposure."

Only one of the 13 chemicals, benzene, is subject to any EPA regulation covering routine industrial releases.

The EPA also issued a summary report identifying the five states with the most toxic pollution in 1987: California, with 5.8 billion pounds (2.6 billion kg), Texas, 2.8 billion pounds (1.2 billion kg), Louisiana, 1.7 billion pounds (0.8 billion kg), Alabama, 827 million pounds (375 million kg), and Michigan, 743 million pounds (337 million kg).

However, EPA officials said California's ranking was largely due to the inadvertent inclusion of sodium sulfate — a widely used but largely non-toxic industrial processing agent — on the list of reportable chemicals.

Without sodium sulfate, which will not be included in the data base next year, California would rank ninth in total toxic discharges.

The government of Chile yesterday ordered half of the diesel-fueled bus fleet off Santiago streets and slapped a one-day-a-week closing order on 50 polluting industries to ease one of the world's worst smog problems.

The measures, which included extending to the entire city a 20-per-cent cut in private car traffic, followed a public outcry that citizens are suffocating in the brown cloud of contamination cloaking the city of 5 million people.

Doctors warned the contamination was endangering public health and newspapers reported hospitals were using beds in hallways to accommodate an overflow of patients with respiratory illnesses.

Great Neptune's hurricane more than a tempest in a teapot

PASADENA, California, June 20, (AP): A giant spot roughly 6,200 miles (10,000 kilometres) wide has been discovered on the planet Neptune by the Voyager 2 space probe, scientists have reported.

"It's huge," said physicist Edward Stone, Voyager project scientist for NASA. "It would be reasonable to suspect this is a large, hurricane-like storm system similar to the great red spot" on Jupiter.

But Stone said yesterday that Voyager 2 still is too far from Neptune to determine if

Jupiter's great red spot contains 250 mph (400 kph) winds.

Scientists haven't yet named Neptune's spot, but are calling it "the dark spot" because it appears darker than the surrounding blue-greenish atmosphere.

The colour of the spot isn't yet known because scientists haven't processed complete pictures through different colour filters, said Andrew Ingersoll, a planetary scientist at the California Institute of

Technology.

Voyager 2 is hurtling at more than 42,000 mph (67,600 kph) toward its Aug 24 close encounter with Neptune.

At that time, the hardy spacecraft will zip within 3,000 miles (4,830 kilometres) of the gaseous planet's cloud tops — by far the closest of any of Voyager's planetary flybys.

Five hours later, it will fly within 25,000 miles (40,230 kilometres) of Triton, one of Neptune's two known moons.

The Neptune encounter will be Voyager 2's fourth and final planetary flyby since the probe was launched in 1977. It explored Jupiter in 1979, Saturn in 1981 and Uranus in 1986.

Neptune's dark spot is located at about 25 to 30 degrees latitude in the planet's southern hemisphere, Ingersoll said. — adding that Voyager also discovered a much smaller, rapidly changing white spot — about half the size of the dark spot — at about 70 degrees south latitude.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin writes book

NEW YORK, June 20, (UPI): Maverick Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin's memoirs on the inside workings of the Politburo will be published in the United States early next year, it was announced yesterday.

A spokesman for Summit Books said it has acquired the US and Canadian rights to publish Yeltsin's as yet unfinished memoirs for an undisclosed price in auction bidding with other publishers.

Part of the proceeds to Yeltsin will be donated to a new fund to fight AIDS in the Soviet Union at the author's request.

Elections proposed

PARIS, June 20, (AP): The United States introduced a proposal yesterday at an East-West human rights conference calling for establishment of free elections as a challenge to all 35 member-states.

"By introducing this proposal, we are setting down a marker, we are establishing a goal which we believe should be pursued vigorously," said Steny H. Hoyer, a US congressman who is co-chairman of the US Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Nuke test planned

PAHUTE MESA, Nevada, June 20, (UPI): A nuclear weapon possibly 11 times greater than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II will be exploded beneath the Nevada desert this week, the US Department of Energy announced yesterday.

The detonation is scheduled for 7 am Wednesday.

Royal tomb found

TEGUCIGALPA, June 20, (Reuters): Archaeologists have unearthed in Copan what they believe to be the remains of a seventh century Mayan ruler's family buried in one of the finest tombs ever discovered in the region, a spokesman said yesterday.

"A special funeral chamber, beneath the hieroglyphic staircase, was found with the human remains of some of the Mayan ruling family," Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History (IHACH) Director Victor Cruz said.

Czechs on trial

FRANKFURT, June 20, (Reuters): Two Czechoslovak youths went on trial in West Germany today charged with hijacking a Hungarian airliner to Frankfurt after spraying the VIP lounge at Prague airport with gunfire.

The trial of the 16-year-old defendants began in a Frankfurt juvenile court despite repeated demands by the Czechoslovak government for their extradition over the incident three months ago.

3 die in strike

SANTO DOMINGO, June 20, (Reuters): Three people died and nine were injured yesterday in street clashes between security forces and supporters of a two-day general strike in the Dominican Republic.

Police said two strike supporters died when police and soldiers used automatic rifles and machine-guns to control a street protest in a northern Santo Domingo neighbourhood.

54 rebels killed

MAPUTO, Mozambique, June 20, (AP): Government troops killed 54 rebel fighters in recent battles in the southern province of Gaza, the national news agency AIM reported yesterday.

Forty-four rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance died in a battle June 9 and 10 more were killed in additional operations through June 14, AIM said. All the fighting was in Gaza province, AIM said, citing a military source in Manjacaze, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Maputo, the capital.

421 rebels die

KAMPALA, Uganda, June 20, (AP): Government troops have killed 421 rebels and captured 313 guns in northern Uganda since the last three weeks, the state-run New Vision newspaper reported yesterday.

The newspaper quoted Betty Bigombe, minister for pacification in Gulu district, as saying 515 rebels also had surrendered to the government.

Bomb explodes

LIMA, June 20, (Reuters): Maoist guerrillas festooned the Peruvian capital with red flags yesterday and exploded a car bomb to mark the third anniversary of the massacre of about 300 imprisoned rebels.

Police ripped down red hammer-and-sickle flags after Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas hung them from lampposts, buildings and power lines throughout Lima.

New peace effort

MANAGUA, June 20, (Reuters): President Daniel Ortega said yesterday he had asked Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo to mediate between Nicaragua and the United States to open the way for dialogue between the two bitterly opposed countries.

Obando Y Bravo, who has often been strongly critical of the leftist Sandinista government, said the church was ready to take any step it could to help bring peace to Nicaragua, racked by eight years of war against US-backed Contra rebels.

Vieira re-elected

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau, June 20, (AP): Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira won re-election as this West Africa nation's head of state, the No Pintcha newspaper reported today.

The country's National Assembly unanimously elected Vieira, last evening, said the state newspaper.

Verification before treaty

GENEVA, June 20, (AP): US President George Bush hopes a proposal introduced as the United States and Soviet Union opened arms reduction talks will speed work on a treaty, the chief US negotiator said today.

Bush proposed yesterday in Washington that the United States and Soviet Union begin testing verification procedures during, rather than at the end of, negotiations on cuts in long-range nuclear forces.

Such steps could involve trial inspections at each other's missile sites and establishment of technical groups to discuss equipment needed for verification measures.

US negotiators plan to suggest round-the-clock monitoring of some ballistic missile factories and on-site checks of missile warheads, to start before any new agreement, according to a Washington official quoted today in the Washington Post. The proposal also was reported to include a ban on some missile flight tests.

At a news conference today, Richard Burt, chief US arms negotiator, said one aim was to build support for US Senate ratification of a future Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Several superpower arms control treaties, including the 1979 SALT-2 pact on limiting

long-range nuclear arsenals, remained unratified because the Senate found the proposed verification plans too lax.

Reiterating the White House position, Burt said progress on verification would not be a precondition in the Start talks.

US arms negotiator Richard Burt defended his government's new approach and said he wanted to build on Moscow's new open attitude to verification.

Burt told a news conference that when talks with the Soviet Union resumed on Wednesday US negotiators would seek agreement on verifying arms cuts before completing a treaty.

Mitsotakis given 3 days to form govt

Leftists reject coalition offer

ATHENS, June 20, (Agencies): Conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis was given three days today to form a new government, only hours after leftists rejected his coalition offer.

Mitsotakis' centre-right New Democracy Party defeated Premier Andreas Papandreu and his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) in Sunday's national elections. But it failed to win a parliamentary majority enabling it to form a government.

Under the constitution the first party in the election is asked by the president to form a government within three days.

After receiving the exploratory mandate from President Christos Sartzetakis today, Mitsotakis refused to say what he planned to do following the leftists' rejection of his coalition offer.

If he fails to form a government in three days, Sartzetakis will then ask PASOK, as the second party, and if

there is still no government, then to the coalition of left and Progress, the third-highest vote getter to form a government.

If all three fail the president appoints a caretaker government to prepare for new elections.

PASOK has hinted it would seek to lead a leftist coalition if it was offered the exploratory mandate.

New Democracy received 44.37 per cent of Sunday's vote and 144 seats, seven short of a majority in the 300-member Parliament. PASOK received 39 per cent and 125 seats, and the coalition 13 per cent and 29 seats.

Mitsotakis yesterday asked the coalition to join him in an interim government with a limited mandate confined to carrying out a "catharsis" or a clean-up of the scandals that have tainted the Papandreu government.

Mitsotakis said the partnership would last "only a few months," until those guilty of involvement in the scandals were punished, before the staging of new elections.

"I hope that all other parties will do all in their power to prevent the scandals from being written off," Mitsotakis said after his meeting with the President.

He pledged during the campaign he would "cleanse" the Greek political establishment and that no one, not even Papandreu, would be spared if there was evidence of involvement.

Failure to prosecute ministers and deputies accused of involvement in the scandals would be tantamount to "granting them amnesty and a stigma on Greek life," he told a news conference.

But the coalition, an alliance of the Communist and Greek left parties, rejected his proposal.

"The coalition has its own proposal and will fight for that proposal to be implemented. Until the coalition's proposal is judged, it will discuss nothing else," said Harilaos Florakis, the leader of the Moscow-oriented Greek Communist Party and president of the coalition.

He said the coalition wants to form a leftist government excluding people tainted by scandal and that it would consider forming a government with PASOK if Papandreu resigned as its leader.

Papandreu and senior members of his party have been accused of being involved in the \$200-million fraud, forgery and embezzlement scheme at the Bank of Crete. George Koskotas, the fugitive owner of the bank, is detained in prison in the United States pending the hearing of an extradition request by the Greek government.

The Socialists have also been accused of widespread corruption and of involvement in a series of arms scandals.

Papandreu has rejected Koskotas' charges that he and members of his socialist administration masterminded the looting of the bank.

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More IRA attacks likely

DUBLIN, June 20, (Reuters): Election losses by the IRA's political wing on both sides of the Irish border could now be followed by a long, bloody summer of guerrilla attacks, Northern Ireland security forces fear.

After Sinn Fein's political reverses, security sources say they now expect a new wave of attacks on British troops in Northern Ireland and that a bomb blitz is planned for Belfast.

"Active service units" are primed for attacks on the British mainland and British Army bases in Europe, ideal targets for giving the Irish Republican Army international publicity for its guerrilla cause.

Sinn Fein, which advocates revolution with "a ballot box in one hand and an armalite rifle in the other," received just 1.2 per cent of the vote in Ireland's general election. Its support also dropped in Northern Ireland's European Parliament vote.

Bomb

Just one day after the European poll, IRA guerrillas broke into a British Army barracks in West Germany yesterday and set off a bomb before escaping. No one was injured.

It was the first IRA attack in Europe since last summer when four soldiers were killed and 40 injured in a string of bomb blasts in West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

August marks the 20th anniversary of British troops being sent to Northern Ireland. More than 400 soldiers have died since then and the IRA will be keen to commemorate the anniversary with some spectacular attacks, the security sources said.

Northern Ireland police are keeping leading IRA activists under constant surveillance after their commanders met in a recent "war council" and decided to return to the offensive, the sources said.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, pushing for electoral advances in both Dublin and Belfast, had urged the IRA to be more careful after 29 civilians were killed by mistake in a string of botched bomb attacks in the past 18 months.

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Tom King was quick to highlight Sinn Fein's electoral reverses.

"I don't know of any other cause in the world that would presume to justify even civil disobedience, let alone the appalling nature of the violent campaign of the IRA, on the minuscule, pathetic minority of votes as that figure represents," he told reporters in Belfast.

With the elections now over, the "doves" in the Republican movement may well take a back seat to the "hawks" who argue that more guerrilla attacks are the best way of focussing world attention on their battle to oust Britain.

That backfired badly in November 1987 when the IRA was internationally condemned by everyone from President Reagan and Pope John Paul to the Soviet News Agency Tass after it killed 11 people attending a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen.

In last week's Irish general election, Sinn Fein received just 1.2 per cent of the vote, less than half its total from the last election in 1987.

In the European Parliament poll, Sinn Fein garnered a 9.2 per cent share of the vote compared to 13.4 per cent at the last poll for Strasbourg deputies in 1984.



Summing up a defeat

Polish Communist Party spokesman Jan Sisztyga briefs reporters after the ruling party suffered humiliating defeats in parliamentary elections on June 4 and 18. (Reuters wirephoto)

Voters show true colours

Euro-parliament results

BRUSSELS, Belgium, June 20, (AP): The European elections have made for a redder and greener European Parliament, but also one in which extreme rightists increased their representation considerably.

Redder, because the Socialists gained 16 seats, bringing their total to 182 in the 518-seat assembly.

And greener because in most of the 12 European Economic Community nations, people voted for ecology-conscious parties giving them 37 seats, a rise of 17.

But the elections, which were held Thursday and Sunday in the 12 nations, also yielded 22 seats for the extreme right, including six newcomers from West Germany.

The extreme right held 16 seats in the outgoing assembly.

Voting was marked by a generally low turnout, indicating that the assembly is not in the forefront of many voters' minds.

EEC-wide, the abstention level was a record 41.5 per cent.

As in the last elections in 1984, Britons again were least interested. Only 37 per cent bothered to vote, election results showed.

In Belgium, Greece and Luxembourg voting is mandatory, and Italian law considers it a civic duty.

In these countries turnout ranged from 79 to 93 per cent. In the other countries, Ireland came out on top with a turnout of 68.3 per cent, but this might have been because the Irish were also voting in a general election.

In a stunning result, Britain's opposition Labour Party not only trounced Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives but also replaced them as the largest single party in the European Parliament with 47 seats.

Their nearest rivals are the West German Christian Democrats with 32 seats.

The British Conservatives lost 14 of their 45 seats in Thatcher's first defeat in a national ballot since taking power a decade ago.

In another surprise, Britain's Greens received more than two million ballots, or 15 per cent of the vote. However, they will not

get a single seat because Britain's electoral system, unlike those elsewhere in the EEC, is not proportional, so smaller parties are at a disadvantage.

The seats gained for the socialist group by the Labour Party more than made up for losses in West Germany and Spain, which both dropped two seats, and in Greece and the Netherlands, which lost one each.

Meanwhile in Madrid, a fugitive Spanish tycoon who won two seats in the European Parliament after a campaign on the run from police secured his freedom today.

Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos, head of the expropriated Industrial Holding Rumasa, was granted unconditional liberty after a Madrid court dropped an arrest warrant against him.

The judge told him the Supreme Court would have to decide what immunities he enjoyed as a member of the Strasbourg-based assembly and whether he could be brought to trial on charges of fraud and assaulting a former government minister.

Ruiz-Mateos, who jumped bail to conduct his maverick campaign from hiding, cocked a snook at mainstream politicians by gaining 3.85 per cent of the vote in last Thursday's election for his party, the Group of Voters of Ruiz-Mateos.

The Greens made their most spectacular gains in France, gaining 10 seats and placing third in France with 10.6 per cent of the vote, behind former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing's right-wing coalition and President Francois Mitterrand's Socialists.

In West Germany, they won only one seat, going to eight. In the previous parliament, the Germans were the strongest Green representatives and were expected to do better.

A German group that did much better than expected occupies the opposite side of the political spectrum. The ultra-right Republican Party, running for the first time in the five-year European elections, entered the assembly with six seats.

Pettersson was 'waiting' for Palme

STOCKHOLM, June 20, (AP): Two witnesses in court today identified the suspect in the shooting death of Prime Minister Olof Palme as the man who stood outside a movie theatre Palme attended the night he was killed.

Both witnesses said Christer Pettersson could be the man that the prosecution claims was waiting to ambush Palme.

Asked if he was certain Pettersson was the man he saw, Lars-Erik Eriksson replied: "Can you ever be 100 per cent sure? But I am very sure."

In a dramatic courtroom confrontation yesterday, Palme's wife Lisbet pointed to Pettersson and said she was "absolutely certain" he was the man she saw nearby as her

husband collapsed with a fatal bullet wound.

Palme, the predominant figure in Swedish politics for more than a decade, was killed Feb. 28, 1986, as he and Lisbet walked home from a late movie downtown. Pettersson has denied shooting Palme.

The prosecution has accused Pettersson, 42, of waiting for Palme to emerge from the Grand Theatre, following the couple for several hundred yards (metres), then shooting the Swedish leader from a distance of eight inches (20 centimetres).

Brittger Vermering, a 47-year-old painter, said she had attended an earlier showing of the film and noticed a man straining to see over people's heads into the lobby.

Ruling Polish coalition cracking

WARSAW, June 20, (Reuters): Cracks appeared today in the Communist-dominated government coalition that has ruled Poland since 1949.

The United Peasant Party (UPP), second-ranking partner with the Communist Party and the Democratic Party (DP), publicly asked its members if they wanted to overhaul the coalition to achieve "real equality and partnership" or to go independent.

It published a questionnaire for party members two days after elections that re-drew the balance of forces in Poland's Parliament and left the communists for the first time dependent on their coalition partners for a majority.

Under a reform pact with Solidarity that made the party-democratic elections possible, the communists surrendered their parliamentary majority. The party now has 38 per cent of the seats in the new Sejm (lower house) and cannot pass laws on its own.

Among the Communists' traditional allies, only the Peasant Party with 16 per cent of the Sejm has enough seats for a combined majority, and it appears ready to sell its votes more dearly than in the past.

Asked to comment, Communist Party Spokesman Jan Bisztyga said the Peasant Party had every right to discuss its future and the workings of the coalition.

"We are not afraid of such discussions and we are not expecting it will weaken the coalition," he said.

However, Peasant Party leaders say communist officials have expressed private concern at their initiative.

The questionnaire in the Peasant Party daily Dziennik Ludowy asked members if they wanted to keep the existing coalition "by changing its character to ensure real equality and partnership among its members" or to "remain independent and enter alliances to resolve concrete problems."

Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, a Peasant Party leader and Sejm deputy, said the party was in effect proposing to switch to an "issues coalition."

"We have very different points of view with the communists on issues like agriculture or wage indexation," he said. "We are saying that in such cases coalition loyalty should not apply, that we can break the coalition in particular cases."

It was the first time the Peasant Party had broken the coalition in particular cases.

Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres attended a session of the Socialist International's governing council, but his Labour Party delegation said it would refuse to stay for the three-day congress opening tomorrow.

It was the first time the Palestine Liberation Organisation was invited as an observer to the triennial congress, and the Israelis complained they were not consulted in advance.

"The Socialist International followed normal procedures when deciding about all the invitations to the observers," said Pentti Vaananen, of Finland, rejecting the Israeli complaint.

A second Israeli party in the 69-member world organisation, the Mapam party, declined to join the protest by the larger Labour Party.

Peres is one of 26 vice-presidents of the organisation, headed by former West German chancellor Willy Brandt.

Among those signed up for the congress were Prime Ministers Michel Rocard of France, Franz Vranitzky of Austria, Michael Manley of Jamaica and Sweden's Ingvar Carlsson. British Labour leader Neil Kinnock, Ed Broadbent of Canada and former premier Bettino Craxi of Italy also were to attend.

The Mideast conflict was expected to dominate the agenda's regional issues, though a draft resolution on the conflict avoided breaking new ground.

The draft calls for an international peace conference convened by the UN Security Council involving all the parties to the conflict.

Fire at Army garrison

BUDAPEST, June 20, (Reuters): Many Soviet soldiers have been injured in a fire at a major Soviet Army garrison in central Hungary, the official news agency MTI reported today.

The injured soldiers were being treated at three hospitals after fire broke out early on Sunday in the living quarters of the garrison, headquarters of the Soviet southern Army group in Tab, central Hungary.

The agency gave no figure for the number of soldiers involved, saying only that many were injured.

The fact that they were being treated at three separate hospitals suggested that casualties could be high.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, MTI said.

Nearly 60,000 Soviet soldiers are stationed in Hungary. Some 10,000 of them are due to leave by 1991.

Speakers at last Friday's funeral of Imre Nagy, the Hungarian prime minister executed after the 1956 uprising, were crushed by Soviet tanks, called for a complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country.



Mitsotakis: mandate

Homes of alleged killers blown up

Shamir faces showdown

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (Reuters): Israeli troops today blew up the homes of three Arabs arrested overnight for allegedly murdering a Jewish settler in the occupied West Bank. But hours later angry fellow settlers from Ariel gave Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir a stormy reception at the funeral of Friedrich Rosenfeld, booing and yelling "traitor."

Shin Bet secret police agents captured three Arabs from the village of Yuzquin near Ariel, security sources said. The sources said they admitted killing Rosenfeld and troops later demolished their homes.

The stabbing of Rosenfeld on Sunday night has fuelled right-wing rage at the Army's alleged inability to protect settlers.

Ron Nachman, mayor of Ariel, said it was likely to push to the right many settlers wavering over Shamir's proposals for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli iron fist

Hardliner on the job

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (Reuters): Israel has appointed a new commander over the occupied West Bank, Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, who brings a hardline reputation to the toughest job in the Israeli Army.

Iran-born Mordechai, 44, succeeds Major-General Amram Mitzna, an avowed liberal accused by Israeli critics of being too soft on an 18-month Arab uprising.

The Army, announcing the new posting yesterday said Major-General Matan Vilnai, 45, the outgoing Army manpower director, would take Mordechai's place as commander over the occupied Gaza Strip.

Unlike in the West Bank, Mordechai has imposed a blanket Gaza curfew for days at a time, punishing all for the unrest of a few. Also in Gaza, more Arabs have been wounded daily per capita in street battles with troops.

After three years in Gaza, Mordechai now takes over what Israeli military experts say is the most problematic posting of the Army. The West Bank is larger and more populous than Gaza and Arab-Jewish tensions flare more often.

In Gaza, Mordechai managed to escape the widespread criticism drawn by Mitzna, who asked to be relieved of his West Bank duty to go on study leave.

"Unlike General Mitzna, he has managed to avoid public criticism of his command, partly because the Gaza Strip is a more compact or autonomous area to deal with, with fewer Jewish settlers to worry about," Israel Radio's military correspondent Alan Ben Ami said.

The settlers make up a larger share of the population in the West Bank. Dozens of settlers, angry at what they say is the Army's failure to protect them from attacks, have rampaged through West Bank Arab towns.

Some 70,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank among one million Arabs compared with 2,000 settlers among the 670,000 Arabs of the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed yesterday that Israel would quash the uprising with an iron fist after the stabbing death of a West Bank Jewish settler.

The settler was the 21st Israeli killed in the uprising compared to at least 520 Palestinians.

In 1985 Mordechai, a former chief paratrooper and infantry officer, was acquitted of charges he pistol-whipped to death one of two Arab gunmen killed in custody after hijacking an Israeli bus in 1984.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Call for Syrian-Egypt unity

DAMASCUS, June 20. (Reuters): More than 2,000 Arab lawyers, including 400 from Egypt, opened a conference yesterday with calls for unity between Syria and Egypt.

Speaking on behalf of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at the 17th meeting of Arab Bar Associations, Syrian vice-president Abdel Halim Khaddam endorsed the call and stressed the need for Arab solidarity.

The conference is also attended by 180 lawyers from Iraq, Syria's main Arab rival.

Ahmed Al Khawaja, the head of the Egyptian Bar Association, told Khaddam he would tell Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that the Syrian and Egyptian peoples wanted renewed ties and unity.

Rehabilitation for drug addicts

NICOSIA, June 20. (Reuters): Iran is building a network of labour camps across the country to detain drug addicts and force them to work on public projects.

Ali Shushitari, head of Iran's prisons organisation, told the official news agency IRNA that at least one camp was planned for each of the country's 24 provinces.

Nineteen alleged drug smugglers were hanged in six Iranian cities Tuesday, the second batch of convicts to be executed since the death of the fundamentalist founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Khomeini, two weeks ago.

\$50,000 for starving in Sudan

VATICAN CITY, June 20. (Reuters): Pope John Paul has given \$50,000 from Vatican funds to help feed the starving in war-ravaged Sudan, the Vatican said today.

The Vatican's daily bulletin said the Pope was closely following the fate of thousands of refugees from a six-year-old civil war and those suffering famine in southern Sudan.

Relief agencies have started air dropping food to remote rebel-held areas of the south where United Nations officials say up to 100,000 people could starve to death this year.

Cheaper homes in new cities

NICOSIA, June 20. (AP): Iran plans to build 12 new cities around the country to house its soaring population, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday.

The agency quoted Housing Minister Serajeddin Kazeroni as saying research was needed to develop construction methods so that more people could own homes.

Kazeroni was quoted as telling the daily newspaper Entela that cheaper homes should be built that would consume less energy.

Iran's population has risen over the past decade from 33 to 50 million and is growing at the rate of 2.5 million annually.

Father pleads for son's release

BEIRUT, June 20. (Reuters): The father of British journalist John McCarthy, held hostage in Lebanon for three years, appealed to his son's kidnappers today to free him so that he can see his dying mother.

"Appeal to the kidnappers of John to free him so he can see his mother ... (she) is in hospital and doctors said she is dying. Her only wish is to see her son," said Patrick McCarthy in a letter published in Beirut newspapers.

Ethiopian rebels

NAIROBI, June 20. (Reuters): Ethiopian rebels threatened today to step up their war unless the government responded within a month to their proposals for a peace conference.

The clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), monitored in Nairobi, said the TPLF had addressed an open letter to the government on June 10 containing rebel demands before peace talks could be held.

Four months on a bicycle

NICOSIA, June 20. (AP): An Iranian cyclist set out yesterday on a 10,000 kilometre (6,200 mile) ride to Athens and back, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

It said Abbas Razaqi, 28, who last year pedalled to Istanbul and back, was expected to complete the trip in four months.

The agency said Razaqi's ride was organised in co-operation with the Foreign Ministry and Iran's National Olympic Committee.

Israeli orchestra in Soviet Union

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (Reuters): The Soviet Union has invited the Israel Philharmonic orchestra to play there for the first time, despite a lack of full Soviet-Israeli relations, an orchestra spokeswoman said yesterday.

A letter from the official Soviet Arts Agency asked the orchestra to tour the country, including Moscow and Leningrad, in autumn next year, the spokeswoman said.

Fight, not hijackers caused plane crash: Iran

NICOSIA, June 20. (Agencies): An armed struggle between the co-pilot and a security guard caused an Afghan airliner to crash in eastern Iran, killing six people, Tehran Radio said yesterday.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Deputy Prime Minister Ali Reza Moayeri as denying earlier Iranian and Afghan reports the plane was hijacked.

In Kabul, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the plane was hijacked by two gunmen who forced it to fly into Iranian airspace.

Tehran Radio, said the minister, visited the scene of Sunday's crash outside Zabol near the southern Afghan border.

It quoted him as telling a news conference later that the plane went out of control after the unnamed security guard shot co-pilot Khair Mohammad in the shoulder during an argument and then opened a rear door of the Arianna Afghan Airlines turbo-prop plane.

"On the basis of the investigations and the interviews with the injured, the pilot and the person in charge of flight security, it has become clear that the co-pilot and the security guard, as a result of long-standing hostility, began fighting in the cockpit," he said.

According to Tehran Radio, Moayeri said the security guard shot and wounded the co-pilot then "without considering the lives of the other passengers" tried to open the rear door.

"The wind pressure caused the aircraft to go out of control and begin moving towards the Iranian border," he added.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, quoted Moayeri as saying Iran had agreed to allow a five-man team from Afghanistan to inspect the crash site and visit the victims.

He said the two men were at loggerheads because of an earlier row over the late arrival of a cargo shipment.

"The guard told flight experts that he opened the rear door in order to prevent the plane from straying," he said.

Moayeri said the passengers could return to Afghanistan and wreckage of the aircraft would be handed over later.

The Soviet-built Antonov AN-26 with 39 people on board was flying from Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan to the southern city of Zaranj.

State-run Iranian television showed film of the wrecked twin-engine plane that apparently buckled as it hit the ground and split apart.

Moayeri said the pilot, Mir Weis Hajani, 50, was not certified to fly the Antonov, a short-hull aircraft adapted from a military transport. He said a qualified pilot could have landed safely at Zabol.

Moayeri said the 33 injured passengers survived because the plane came down near a mine.

Envoy expects better relations

US-Soviet co-operation urged

NICOSIA, June 20. (AP): Soviet Ambassador Yuri E. Fokine said today that co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union is essential to solving regional conflicts such as that dividing the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities on Cyprus.

The ambassador, addressing a meeting of the large foreign press corps based here, also said he expected improved Soviet relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

"The situation of the world is such that no major international issue can be settled without the two superpowers' co-operation," the ambassador said.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops intervened following a coup aimed at union with Greece. Intercommunal talks on reunification have made no progress.

Fokine said it was a mistake to view Soviet foreign policy as if "we are competing with the United States in all areas of the globe, particularly in the Middle East."

He said the two sides held regular discussions on problems in the Middle East.

On Iran, he said the Soviet Union sought more stable relations since "we are neighbours, we have a long border and we want that border to be peaceful at all times."

Fokine said that Moscow and Iran are "slowly returning to the kind of relations that existed before the Iran-Iraq war."

The ambassador said that the Soviet Union had ties with all Arab countries except Saudi Arabia, which he said he hoped would change soon.

"We have contacts and I hope they develop into a more normal relationship," he said.



Talks on talks welcome

Afghan President Najibullah has welcomed the planned resumption of talks between Moscow and Washington on Afghanistan if that resulted in a formula which would encourage Muslim rebels to enter peace negotiations. (Reuters wirephoto)

Christian ports shelled again

Blockade tightens

BEIRUT, June 20. (Reuters): Syrian and Lebanese Muslim gunmen shelled Christian ports again today, tightening a three-month blockade which has brought misery to civilians on both sides of divided Beirut.

Troops loyal to Major General Michel Aoun, a Christian, and Syrian-backed Druze militiamen later traded artillery fire along the mountain ridge of Souk Al Gharb, security sources said.

They said several shells crashed into residential areas near the frontline but no casualties were reported.

The sea and land sieges clamped by Syria and its allies on the Christians entered its 12th week with no end in sight.

Living conditions in both sectors of Beirut are worsening sharply with shortages of flour, fuel and other basic commodities. Electricity has been cut to one hour in 24.

Security sources said some 50 shells slammed into the sea near the ports of Amshet, Byblos and Jounieh, the only outlet for some 500,000 people in the Christian enclave. There were no casualty reports from the bombardment.

Petrol in East Beirut has been scarcer than ever since a tanker was set ablaze at Jounieh on Thursday by shelling.

Christian ports have been shelled daily despite an Arab League ceasefire agreed on May 11. The truce largely halted 60 days of intense artillery bombardments of civilian areas in which at least 373 people were killed.

Aoun heads an interim military cabinet competing for recognition with a Syrian-backed Muslim-led administration. Fighting began after he started blockading Muslim militia ports. Syria and its allies retaliated by sealing off Christian areas.

"This is a blockade aimed at starving people into submission," one Christian politician said.

Arab League efforts to lift the siege and consolidate the shaky ceasefire have been stalemated. Political sources said Aoun demanded that observers be stationed on the border with Syria to halt arms shipments by Damascus.

Syria, with some 40,000 troops in Lebanon, insisted that the observers be deployed only at all ports to stop weapons, especially from Iraq, reaching Aoun.

A communiqué from Aoun's office accused the Syrian Army of blasting his garrison at the town of Souk Al Gharb with fire from tanks and 130-mm mortars.

Israeli helicopters today attacked positions of pro-Iranian militant groups in east Lebanon's Bekaa valley, security sources in this southern town said.

Lebanese resistance forces today attacked with rockets and machine-gun fire a border post of pro-Iranian militias of the South Lebanon Army, injuring at least four SLA men.

Clovis Maksoud, Arab League's ambassador to the US and the United Nations, has called for an end to Lebanon's militias and reassertion of "unity and sovereignty."

And he said it was the basis of the League's tripartite committee's effort to bring peace to Lebanon, which he conceded had made little progress to date.

Iran seeking improved ties

Rafsanjani in Moscow

NICOSIA, June 20. (Agencies): Iran's parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani started an official visit to Moscow today to set the tone for Tehran's pragmatic diplomacy after Ayatollah Khomeini.

The visit, showing the new leaders firmly in control barely two weeks after Khomeini's death, is the first by a top Iranian leader to the Soviet Union since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Rafsanjani was accompanied by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, commander of the Revolutionary Guards corps Mohsen Rezaei, Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi, representatives of seven ministries and a number of parliamentary deputies, the agency said.

Rafsanjani, invited by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, told Tehran Radio before leaving today that Iran's relations with its northern neighbour — both imperial Russia and the Communist regime of the past 70 years — had been bad.

"But now conditions are ripe for opening a new chapter in the relations and indeed in the history of the region," he said.

Khomeini sealed the new relationship in January by sending Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev an unprecedented, if bizarre, letter, praising his policies of perestroika and glasnost.

Rafsanjani said Gorbachev's reforms, the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in which Moscow had backed Baghdad, and the pullout of Soviet forces from Afghanistan convinced him to take up the Kremlin's invitation, first extended two years ago.

With Iran's relations with many Western countries still strained from Khomeini's death order on author Salman Rushdie, the Soviet Union is a natural source of much-needed help in Iran's economic reconstruction following the eight-year war.

Rafsanjani is expected to sign a long-term pact.

LATEST:

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told Rafsanjani that there has never been a better chance for improving ties between Tehran and Moscow.

Iran could preserve its revolutionary values and Moscow would not do anything to harm Iran's interests, Gorbachev told Rafsanjani during a Kremlin meeting, Tass news agency reported.

One agreement is for exports of up to three billion cubic metres of Iranian natural gas next year.

The Soviet Union has also agreed to help Iran search for oil in the southern part of the Caspian Sea.

The Soviet Union is expected to build two dams and power plants with a total capacity of 8,000 megawatts in Iran. It is expected to help electrify Iran's railroads and buy from Tehran 1,000 rail cars.

Soviet technicians will also upgrade the facilities at the giant Isfahan steel mill to boost its capacity to 1.9 million tons a year.

Tehran has looked increasingly to the Soviet bloc countries for its military hardware as it rebuilds its armed forces, although little has been said publicly.

In his departure statement, Rafsanjani also said strengthening Iranian-Soviet ties could improve conditions for the 50 million Muslims in the Soviet Union, IRNA reported.

ON THE DOUBLE



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AIR-INDIA

Palestinian leaders critical of US policy on Middle East

TUNIS, June 20. (Reuters): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and another PLO official made unusually severe criticisms of Washington's Middle East policy yesterday, saying the United States was helping to prolong Palestinian suffering.

"We put on record our dismay at this American position which stands alongside Israel as an insurmountable obstacle to (peace) efforts," said Arafat, chairman of the PLO.

"The United States ... through its repeated rejection of an international conference on Middle East peace ... contributes to prolonging the suffering and pains of our people under Israeli occupation," he added to a message to a UN committee on Palestine due to meet today.

But Arafat welcomed the dialogue between the PLO and the US, saying it should be developed in the interests of a just peace.

PLO executive committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, head of the Palestinian team in the dialogue, described recent statements by US officials as hostile to the Palestinian right to an independent state.

Abed Rabbo, whose comment was carried by the PLO news agency Wafa, referred to remarks by State Department official Dennis Ross but did not specify what Ross had said.

Arafat and Abed Rabbo both said Washington was still far from adopting an impartial Middle East policy. They repeated the PLO position that elections could take place in the West Bank and Gaza only after Israeli withdrawal, under UN supervision and as part of a settlement which includes a Palestinian state.

UNESCO's executive board decided today to discuss a request for the admission of Palestine to the organisation at its major conference in the autumn, but the PLO representative indicated he might not force a vote on the issue but at the meeting.

Israel's Labour Party says it will boycott a Socialist International meeting beginning tomorrow because the PLO was invited.

Kuwaiti co-operative movement celebrates silver jubilee

Safety valve for prices and quality

A QUARTER century has elapsed since the Kuwaiti co-operative movement started its activities. During the last twenty-five years the Kuwaiti movement has interacted successfully with its counterparts on Arab and international levels. The movement has gained the confidence of international experts and constitutes a prominent landmark in the Kuwaiti renaissance.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed the chairman of Kuwaiti Agricultural Co-operative Societies Union Barrak Nasser Al Noun and the chairman of the Consumers Co-operative Societies Union Ali Salem Abu Hadidah.

Noun said that Kuwait had played a prominent role in the field of co-operative movement. He clarified that Kuwait had participated effectively in the Arab Co-operative union and had contributed in setting up of the said union law and charter. Kuwait participated in several Arab conference and seminars which helped enrich the

Arab and local co-operative movement.

He added that Kuwait has hosted the Second Arab Co-operative Conference and the Seventh Congress of the Arab Co-operative Union in February, 1988 which was the most successful congress in the union's history.

Kuwait had also concluded several protocols with a number of Arab countries for boosting of the co-operative movement in sisterly states, the official said.

Husbandry

Replying to a question over the terms of reference of his union, Noun said that the union consisted of productive botanic and husbandry societies having the membership of a choice of farmers at Al Abdali and Al Wafra in addition to the poultry farms owners who had formed their own co-operative society.

He described his union as the mainstream for the productive co-operative movement. The union

spares no efforts towards solving problems of farmers in addition to spreading co-operative awareness amongst farmers, the official said. The union played a significant role towards expanding the agricultural lands and providing necessary pens for sheep and reducing fodder prices.

He added that the union had provided the necessary channels for marketing of the agricultural products in the country's five governorates, in addition to a new shed to be opened soon at Shuwaikh Vegetable Market.

Meanwhile, the official applauded the establishment of the co-operative division at Kuwait Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) in view of the role to be played by academic studies towards the spread of the co-operative spirit among the people. He called for the support of the division and suggested that other faculties and co-operation training centres must be established by the authority.

He also called for recruiting co-operation division graduates in the leading post of the country's co-operative movement, hinting that the step will push forward the co-operative movement in the country.

In this context, the official suggested the forming of a joint committee with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and PAAET in order to encourage Kuwaitis to work in the co-operative sector.

He disclosed that there were 7,500 people working in the Kuwaiti Co-operative Sector with about 95 per cent expatriates. He described this percentage as irrational, hinting that opportunities must be given to Kuwaiti graduates to join the sector.

Marketing

Speaking of the co-operation between his union and the Co-operative Societies Union and the effect of such co-operation on the marketing process, Noun said that the co-operation had been recognised during the International Co-operative Con-

ference held in Vienna in 1966. Kuwait also was in dire need for such co-operation particularly towards the marketing of the agricultural products which became the prominent problem threatening Kuwaiti farmers.

Application of the necessary co-operation among the two national unions will overcome this problem, he said. On relations between the Kuwaiti co-operative movement and government apparatuses, the official said that the Kuwaiti co-operative movement is receiving great support from the government. The government had provided the movement with the necessary premises in addition to financial support.

Replying to a question over the appointment of some directors at the co-operative societies, the official said that this appointment will be acceptable provided that it should be justified. He hinted that there are some negative aspects at some co-operative societies which entail eventually the appointment of some directors by the gov-

ernment.

Meanwhile, Abu Hadidah, chairman of Consumers Co-operative Societies Union praised the Kuwaiti role in the Arab co-operative movement, clarifying that the Kuwaiti efforts in this respect had helped promote the movement.

He added that the Kuwaiti Co-operative Law enacted in 1962, formed the basis of several Arab countries to derive their local co-operative laws. He added that his union had been established in 1971 which had been designed to co-ordinate among the interests of the country's co-operative societies.

Speaking of co-operative education, Hadidah said that this issue is the responsibility of Ministry of Education and the Higher Education Ministry represented by the PAAET and Kuwait University.

Meanwhile, the official said that the union was ready to accommodate all the Kuwaiti graduates in the field of co-operation. But, he complained, that most Kuwaiti graduates look for-

ward to be general managers and we already have 39 co-operative societies with thirty-nine general managers and we cannot add any new general managers.

Speaking of the marketing of the Kuwaiti agricultural output, Hadidah said that co-operation in this respect held so far between his union and the farmers directly but not with the Agricultural Co-operative Union. He clarified that the price problem was impeding co-operation, as the consumer co-operative societies were always striving to get the best prices. However, there is a study for governing co-operation between the two union which is to be finalised soon.

Hadidah praised the support extended by the government to his union, but he complained that the fees imposed by the State Domains Department on the union was high and this will be reflected on the prices of consumer goods. He called on the minister of finance to review this issue for the sake of public interest.

EEC-GCC co-operation important, says Wulffen

KUWAIT, June 20, (KUNA): Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Kuwait Dr Bernd Wulffen has stressed the importance of co-operation between the European Economic Community, EEC, and the Gulf Co-operation Council states.

In a statement to KUNA today, Dr Wulffen asserted that his government was keen on keeping the European market open to foreign investment and to increasing trade exchange with the outer world.

He said the EEC's success greatly depends on its ability to maintain openness and interaction with international markets. The German diplomat noted

that the EEC group had signed in Luxembourg last year an agreement for economic, scientific and cultural co-operation with the GCC.

The two groups, he went on, will conclude another agreement later on, aimed at resolving commercial obstacles facing their bilateral co-operation.

Dr Wulffen added that an EEC technical committee will hold a meeting in Brussels this summer to try and formulate specific proposals on resolving problems regarding GCC states' petrochemical exports to European countries.

He said the EEC members are looking forward to having economic co-operation with the GCC states in line with the rules and

basis of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, GATT, and its stipulations regarding negotiations on goods.

The ambassador indicated that the GCC states were opposed to conducting talks on the basis of the GATT as they are not members to that agreement, excluding Kuwait.

Dr Wulffen gave prominence to investment incentives offered by his country citing the foreign investors' right to completely acquire ownership of German companies.

He mentioned as an example 'Phemning' Timber Company which was hundred per cent owned by Kuwaiti nationals, three years ago.

Premier's generous initiative to Intifada

KUWAIT, June 20, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has donated the cost of the celebration to be held later today in Geneva to commemorate martyrs of the Palestinian Intifada and to display solidarity with the Palestinian people, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed said today.

He added that the ceremony, to be held on the sidelines of the current international labour conference, will take place at the end of an International Information Day organised by the Arab group attending the conference at the International Conferences Palace in Geneva.

Sheikh Nasser said that Kuwait's permanent representative in Geneva and its representative at the European headquarters of the United Nations Dr Salem Jaber Al Ahmad had conveyed HH's decision to the Arab League Office and the International Labour Bureau.

Representatives of both welcomed the Crown Prince's generous initiative which reflects Kuwait's stable support to the Palestinian cause and mirrors the concern and follow-up of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier towards all what strengthens Arab endeavor, Sheikh Nasser underlined.

The minister noted that the event serves as a great opportunity to acquaint world representatives with developments in Palestine and the Palestinian people's position, currently engaged in a 20-month-old uprising in face of Israeli occupation authorities' inhuman practices.

Commercial seminar

PARIS, June 20, (KUNA): A seminar on means of promoting the commercial exchange between France and Kuwait is scheduled to be held here next September 21, the chairman of the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Michel Habib-Delencle said here today.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency, Habib-Delencle said the seminar will be held in co-operation with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the two Kuwaiti banks operating in France, the Kuwait-French Bank and the National Bank of Kuwait.

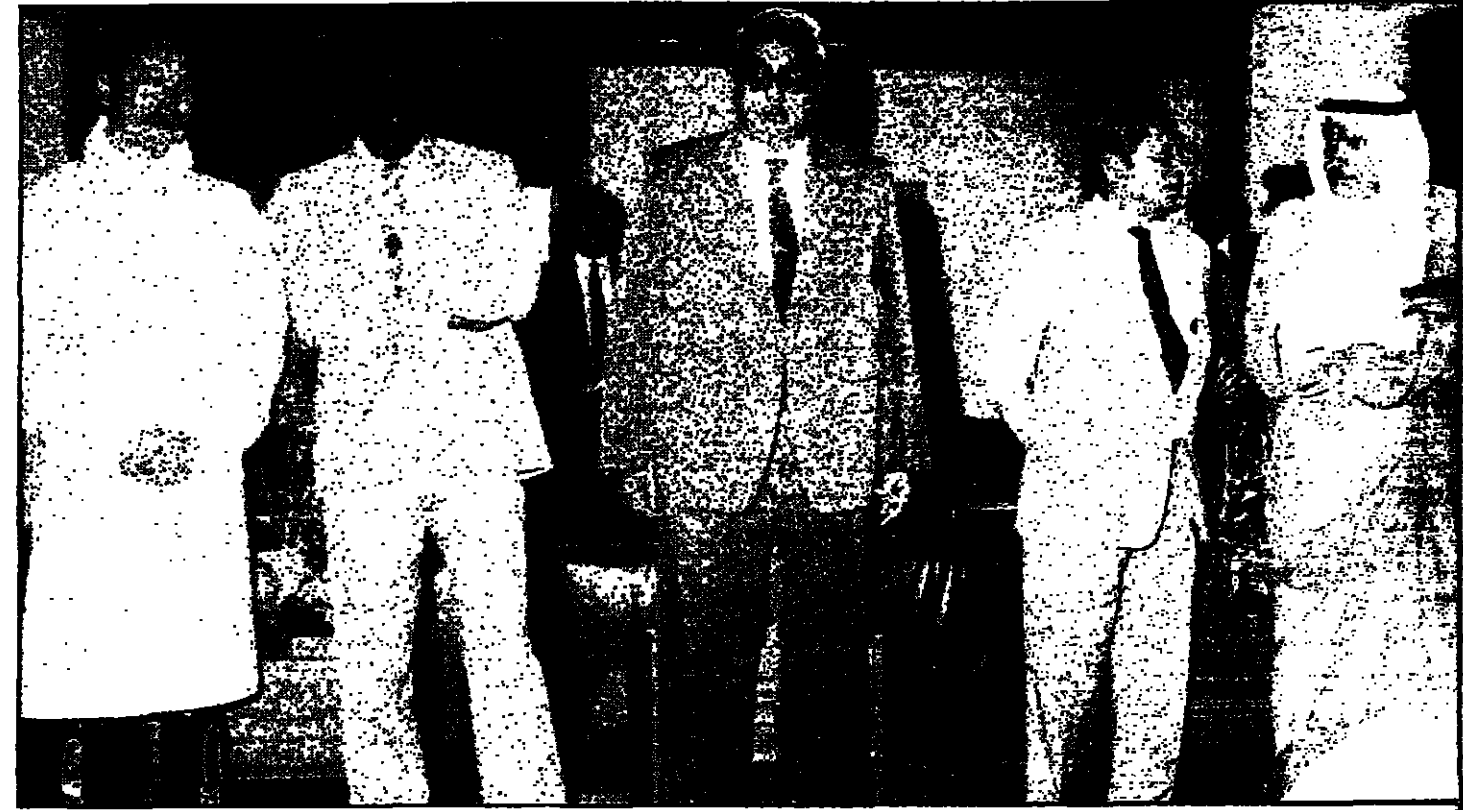
The chairman said there is a need to encourage the dialogue between Kuwait and French enterprises which would be a continuation to a wider dialogue already existing between the two countries.

He added that this is the beginning of a tradition to hold such seminars alongside meetings of the Franco-Kuwaiti Joint Economic Commission which alternates annually between capitals of the two countries.

The date of the upcoming meetings of the Franco-Kuwaiti Joint Economic Commission has not yet been announced.

Corrigendum

THIS refers to "Faith and Fatwas" (AT, June 20): The paragraph "Donation is conditional; most people insist on donating to relatives; other want only Muslim patients," he said "should have read "said Al Hashem." Fuad Al Hashem of the Kuwait Organ Transplant Society was commenting on the difficulties of getting donors to register at his society. So far, 600 people have registered. Professor George Abouna, however, did not comment on the issue. (FA)



Foreign Ministry farewell

Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a farewell reception at a local hotel for the outgoing ambassadors of Bhutan, Sudan, India and Sri Lanka: Above (L-R): Ambassador Sangay Dorji, Mohammed A. Abdullah, N.H. Jha, C.H. Mohammad and Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen.

Jaber on official visit to Cairo

CAIRO, June 20, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah arrived here today on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Safwat Al Sharif.

On arrival, the Kuwaiti minister and accompanying delegation were received by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sharif, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo Abdul Razak Al Kandari and embassy staff, in addition to senior Information Ministry officials.

The delegation comprises Board Chairman and Director and Director-General of Kuwait News Agency Barges Hmoud Al Barges, Information Ministry Assistant Undersecretary Rida Yousef Al Fili, Assistant Undersecretary for Broadcasting Affairs Dr Abdel Aziz Mohammed Al Mansoor, Assistant Undersecretary for Television Affairs Salem Al Fahd Al Ali and

a number of senior Information Ministry officials, journalists and writers.

Sheikh Jaber will discuss with senior Egyptian officials, Arab issues in the light of Casablanca and other Arab co-operation Council summit resolutions, an official at the Egyptian embassy said here yesterday.

The Information Commissioner Mahmoud Atteya told a local daily that the Kuwaiti information minister will confer with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, his Egyptian counterpart Safwat Al Sharif on promoting bilateral co-operation in fields of information, broadcasting and television.

Acquaintance

He expressed his hope that the visit, which is the first for the Kuwaiti minister after assuming his post, will be an opportunity to meet with chief editors of the major Egyptian newspapers and to be acquainted with the Egy-

ptian information endeavour.

Sheikh Jaber was quoted as saying his country supports reviving the ethical charter of Arab information work.

Sheikh Jaber said Kuwait was because it was the natural start to lay down a joint strategic information plan for the Arab world.

Rooted

Speaking on Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations, he described them as historical and deeply rooted.

He said relations between the two countries would continue to flourish as HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak were very keen on further cementing Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations.

Sheikh Jaber added that Kuwait would bring up a working paper on the utilisation of the Arab satellite to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of Arab Gulf Information Ministers.

Saudi importers unaware of contracting legalities: study

A SAUDI study published by the Chamber of Commerce in Jeddah has revealed that a number of Saudi importers have never collected any information about exporters and that others are not fully aware of contracting legalities and don't have enough technical expertise in recognising the quality and technical characteristics of goods, particularly information connected to machines and equipment.

The study pointed out that importers have limited knowledge on international purchase contracts and conditions imposed on international trade. Importers may choose one of the fourteen contract types without really knowing the benefits or disadvantages they may encounter as a result of their choice.

Interest It stated that letters of credit have become more common in international trade and that they have overwhelmed other means of payments like postponed payments and payments against credit insurance which are considered the higher in achieving importers' interests compared with the letters of credit method.

The study indicated problems faced by importers when receiving their goods as: delays in receiving their goods at the specified dates, delays in shipping, receiving less quantities of ordered goods, arrival of goods without any prior notice, arrival of goods that don't match contract conditions and letters of credit, receiving damaged goods, receiving unordered goods, receiving goods that don't match Saudi standards, and receiving goods after their expiry dates.

Importers believe that 87 per cent of these problems are because of exporters and other importers pointed out that nine per cent of these problems are caused by navigation companies. But others said that importers lack of awareness and overconfidence in exporters have encouraged cheating.

The study revealed that only 18 per cent of Saudi importers may refuse to receive the unwanted goods and may present complaints to the Saudi Chamber of Commerce, the rest may accept the unwanted goods without being aware of the problems they may face.

The study urged importers to investigate about source reputation and financial position before signing contracts. It urged them to be more accurate in dealing with exporters.

Business booming at Saudi ports

THE State Minister and head of the General Ports Establishment in Saudi Arabia Dr Fayez Ibrahim stated that 1988 is considered a landmark for Saudi ports. The size of commerce has increased dramatically with higher returns than any previous period.

A report published recently by the Saudi General Ports Establishment pointed out that this hike in the size of goods handled by ports was due to the big jump witnessed by Saudi exports. In 1988, Saudi exports totalled 47 million tons. Majority of these related to petrochemical and agricultural products. The report added that Saudi exports of goods increased more than 20 per cent compared with 1987.

The size of Saudi exports, excluding crude oil has increased eleven times from 1983 until 1988 and now represents more than 68 per cent of total goods handled at Saudi ports.

Structure

In the report, Fayez stressed that 1988 is also considered a start of a big era in the kingdom's petrochemical exports. King Fahd Industrial Port positioned in Yanbu had the largest share of this trade. Fayez said that this big increase in exports shows the government success in making a change in the structure of the national economy. The government has concentrated efforts to encourage the interests of the country's productive sectors, particularly in petrochemicals and agricultural industry. He stated that these new steps taken by the government have played an important part in pushing the export movement forward.

A decision issued by the government decreased port service fees by 50 per cent for national industries and some other industrial exports like wheat. The government also granted exports another

incentive when a decision was issued to permit exports to stay at ports stores from two up to ten days free of charge.

Training

The report stated that representatives from the General Ports Establishment participated at several international and Gulf conferences during 1988. The sixth meeting for ports officials was held in Riyadh. During the conference the General Ports Establishment adapted the first symposium on GCC ports requirements in the training field.

Regarding features on outgoing and incoming goods, the report pointed out that 90 per cent of incoming goods at the Saudi ports is for the kingdom, on the other hand, the kingdom exports of goods form 95 per cent of total outgoing goods. European countries top the list of imports to the kingdom which forms 35 per cent of total imports. North and South America came in second at 33 per cent.

Pilgrims

The report added that the Islamic Jeddah Commercial Port comes first in size of goods amongst other commercial ports in Saudi. The same port is also the first in passenger movements. It witnessed a phenomenal increase of passenger movement during the haj season.

The government of Saudi Arabia has provided large facilities to receive sea hajis which made it one of the leading ports in the world. It provided the best facilities for the comfort of hajis. A big air-conditioned hall was established for passengers at the Islamic Jeddah Commercial Port with a capacity of 3,000 persons. The hall was provided with 1,000 seats and a bilingual library which includes several publications distributed to hajis free of charge.

The report said that ports in Saudi Arabia have achieved a high level of efficiency.

Fintas murder suspect under interrogation

A 40-YEAR-OLD male identified as Hamad A. is the main accused in the death of an eight-year-old Kuwaiti girl found naked west of Fintas earlier this month, according to a local daily.

The accused has been arrested along with a second accomplice identified as Mohammed A.

According to sources, the first accused lived in Rigga and the

other in Sabahiya. The sources said that according to the confession of Hamad, the victim Noura had entered the accused's house at 7.00 am. Hamad said that at that time his friend Mohammed was visiting him and witnessed him dismissing the girl from the house. When she refused, he dragged her by the hair and threw her down on the ground resulting in her death. He denied

having sexually assaulted her. He added that he and his friend carried the victim's body to the car and dumped her body west of Fintas.

However, sources said that Mohammed denied the statement of his friend and claimed that he did not visit his friend on the day of the crime. He also claimed that his car claimed to be used in carrying the body of the girl was in the garage.

Two eyewitnesses who saw the two defendants carrying the body from the house to the car notified police, sources said.

Meanwhile, the victim's brother told a local daily that he was unaware that the first defendant was living close to their house. He said that his sister was mentally retarded and sometimes missed the directions to the house and was constantly under supervision. The victim was studying at a kindergarten, the brother added.

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Spaniard to walk until 2005

A 52-YEAR-OLD Spanish traveller, identified as Montiro Kalfatchi has so far walked 25,000 kilometres and claims that he will complete his journey around the world in 2005.

Kalfatchi told the Iraqi News Agency before leaving Baghdad for Kuwait, that this will be his eleventh stop-over in his around-the-world trip. He added that the objective of his trip is to call for peace and focus on the fight against narcotics. He said that he wanted to prove to the world that a human could achieve his objectives with the simplest methods.

He added that he intends to publish a book on his journey as soon as it is over. The sales of the book will be donated to orphans around the world, he said.

His journey began in Spain in Jan 1976 and after leaving Kuwait, he will proceed to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the rest of the Arabian Gulf States. He will also then proceed to Pakistan, India, America and then through to Africa.

Police beat

Sentenced for narcotics indulgence

ONE person was sentenced to two years and another to 30 months rigorous imprisonment on charges of indulging in narcotics.

The criminal court who passed the verdict was told that one of the defendants was approached by an undercover agent for the purchase of narcotics. The agent handed over KD100 in marked bills and the suspect was apprehended.

A raid on the premises of the suspect resulted in the recovery of some heroin and narcotic pills. The suspect during interrogation said that he had obtained the contraband from the second accused.

A police search of the premises of the second accused also netted some contraband.

Pill traders arrested

SECURITY forces of the Criminal Investigation Department arrested five nurses and one first aid male attendant of the Ministry of Public Health on charges of trading in hallucination pills.

Close surveillance of the suspects by investigators convinced them that the accused were involved in trading in drugs and raided their residence. A total of 7,000 narcotic pills were seized in the raid.

Two nurses work in the Psychiatric Hospital and the other three in Ardhiya Health Centre.

The defendants and the contraband have been referred to investigation authorities.

Seven years for rape

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court has sentenced a man to seven years in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation for raping the maid of his neighbour.

The court heard that the maid went to the defendant's house to return a water hose that her employer had earlier borrowed from him. The defendant grabbed her hand and forced her into the house to commit his crime.

The victim's employer rushed to her rescue as he heard her calling for help but it was too late and the incident was later reported to the local police station.

Plates off abandoned cars

HEADS of traffic divisions at the governorates have been directed to take off the number plate of any vehicle that has been found abandoned by owners.

The directive issued by the Director-General of the Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hameed Haji Abdulrahman states that notifications will be affixed on such vehicles calling for the owners to present themselves to the traffic division concerned to avoid further legal action being instituted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, June 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah today received Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara who is here to attend the 10th meeting of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Jassir.

Premier's audience

KUWAIT, June 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received Secretary-General of the Arab League Chadi Klihi, who is here to participate in the meetings of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation.

Planning meet

KUWAIT, June 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today will preside over the second meeting of the Higher Planning Council tomorrow.

The council's Secretary-General Fuad Mulla Hussein said the council will review, among other issues, the report of the economic committee pertaining to draft of the state budget for fiscal year 1989-1990 and proposals and recommendations related to the study on Kuwait real estate market.

The role of co-operative societies movement in Kuwait's economy and means of boosting such a movement will figure high in the agenda along with other topics.

Boycott

KUWAIT, June 20, (KUNA): Israeli boycott bureau in Kuwait today blacklisted the Yugoslav ships Iskra and Dalkacija.

The bureau also blacklisted the Israeli ship Kestrel.

Conference

HE head of the Gulf Marketing Society, Abdul Menam Al Sheerwi, announced that preparations are under way to hold the second Gulf Marketing conference in Bahrain in December. The conference will shed light on full marketing strategies in 90's.

The Gulf Marketing Society, which is located in Bahrain will prepare two symposiums during the coming period. The first will deal with sales methods followed by Arab Gulf states and the second on modern technology applications in marketing.

Electronics prices

PRICES of electronic appliances increased a clear hike in the Bahraini market. A study conducted by the Bahraini Al Ayam newspaper stated that the increase of prices ranges between 15 and 20 per cent due to the recent rise in the price of foreign currencies.

It added that the local Bahraini market is still suffering from stagnation, despite the economic boost witnessed after the Iraq-Iran war.

The study also pointed out at the rise in the prices of electrical appliances has caused a drop in consumer purchases. It added that the departure of foreign manpower from Bahrain has affected overall buying power.

Traffic decision

VEHICLES with less than nine passengers will not be permitted to drive inside Makkah and other shrines during the pilgrimage season, according to a decision issued by the Saudi Ministry of Interior.

The decision will be effective from 28 for vehicles exiting Saudi Arabia, but for incoming vehicles, the decision will come into force as of July 3.

Law department

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has reportedly finalised preparations for setting up a new labour department in the ar-Ruwaiya governorate. Well-informed sources have said Seyassah that major changes could be effected in the existing labour law other governorates, in the capital, Ahmadi, Jahra and Salihiya.

WEATHER

DUST will continue with moderate to heavy rain. State of sea: moderate to fresh. High water: 2.22 am, 12.00 noon. Low water: 7.00 am, 8.10 pm. Sunrise: 4.49 am. Sunset: 6.51 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 43°C 109°F. Ahmadi: 42°C 108°F. Falaika: 41°C 106°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 28°C 82°F. Ahmadi: 31°C 88°F. Falaika: 31°C 88°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 42°C 108°F. Ahmadi: 39°C 102°F. Falaika: 40°C 104°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 14 per cent. Ahmadi: 26 per cent. Falaika: 34 per cent.

Kuwait steps up control on imported animals

No screwworm infection so far

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

KUWAIT has stepped up the control of imported animals in an effort to find out if they are infected by the American screwworm, a semi-tropical flesh-eating parasite which attacks mainly cattle but can also threaten other mammals and man.

The measure was introduced after the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) last May alerted Kuwaiti authorities to the dangers of infection by the fly. The insect has been detected in Libya, and may spread to other parts of the Middle East. Other countries in the Middle

East, Africa and southern Europe were also asked by the FAO to add the pest to their active veterinary and medical surveillance and notify the organisation of their findings.

Until 1988 the fly was unknown outside North and South America. The Director of Animal Health Department in Kuwait, Dr Sultan Al Sultan, says he believes the infection was transferred to North Africa through cattle carrying the larvae.

Dr Kathryn Monk, a British entomologist residing in Kuwait, said the insect could also have travelled over the Atlantic by plane.

Sultan insisted that there was no cause for alarm as the fly has not been detected in the country and Kuwait does not import animals from the Americas.

Veterinarians at six Kuwaiti quarantines are now examining animals for wounds where the female screwworm usually lays her eggs. None have been detected so far, Dr Sultan said.

Monk advised vigilance but also said that it was unlikely the fly would invade Kuwait because of the small number of cattle in the country and the harsh climate.

The chances of the screwworm attacking man are extremely remote, Monk stressed. The fly,

which feeds on dying tissue, can infect man in the nose but the scientist said this kind of attack will only occur if there is already some other primary infection of the nasal passages and is related to general health and hygiene.

However, she pointed out that the infection can result in economic losses if infected cattle are not treated. Damage from the infection in the US, where only cattle have been infected, is known to have reached \$120 million per year during the fly invasions, she said.

This prompted American authorities to mount a campaign to eradicate the fly. Chemical control is ineffective and the US killed off the

fly population by using the sterile male technique. This means that cultured male flies are irradiated in a process which renders them sterile. They are then released into the wild population where they mate with female flies which produce sterile eggs.

The fly is still prevalent in Mexico and US authorities are monitoring the border areas for re-invasion.

Sultan said Kuwait does not have the facilities to eradicate the fly.

The screwworm, a name related to the fly's larvae which bores its way into the flesh, is a member of the same insect family as the blue bottle and blow flies.

Driving tests

No discrimination

THERE should be no discrimination based on nationality for drivers undertaking their driving tests, according to the director-general of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji.

The official called on the staff supervising these driving tests to ensure that all bona fide people living in Kuwait who deserve to pass the driving test should be so certified.

Instructions

"There are about 125 nationalities living in Kuwait and we cannot subject them to driving tests according to regulations and procedures of their respective countries," Hajji said. He also stressed on the necessity of giving those who failed, more than one chance to try again.

A local daily reported that Hajji issued instructions to officers of driving test sections to unify appointments for the period between the first and second tests to provide learners sufficient time to get more training.

Hajji will pay a visit to the driving test section of the Hawalli Governorate at the 6th Ring Road on Thursday to inspect driving test procedures.

Waste in education process discussed

Inefficient production machine

ARAB educational systems are designed only to produce quantity of graduates and almost totally ignore quality, Ibrahim Al Shatti, director of the office of HH the Amir said and added that Kuwait is no different from the rest of the Arab world, simply because of its dependence upon teachers from the Arab countries.

Elucidating, he went on to say that education in the Arab world can best be described as "fighting for the eradication of illiteracy only and not with the aim of producing well qualified personnel capable of playing an important role in the country's development process." Shatti was commenting at a top-level discussion organised by the Ministry of Planning to study several development issues.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning, Dr Abdul Hadi Al Awadi, who is also the co-ordinator of the Five-Year Development Plan also speaking at the same meeting warned of the dangerous consequences of the continuity of the population imbalance between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis.

The official said that "Sufficiency to say that Kuwaitis form only 28 per cent of the estimated 1.8 million people living in Kuwait." They also form a meagre 14 per cent of the country's workforce, he added.

Inefficient

The meeting discussed yesterday the issue of "Squandering and Waste in the Educational Process." Dean of the College of Education at Kuwait University, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Ahmad presented a study paper on the issue. He defined squandering in

education as "the loss resulting from the inefficiency of the production machine of the establishment which also applies to government education."

He said squandering is represented mainly in three phenomena: repeating classes, drop outs and educational backwardness. Speaking about the size of the problem in Kuwait, Ahmad said that a recent study on failures and students who drop out indicated that the problem has been considerably reduced in the primary and intermediate stages while it increased in the secondary stage. He said that the study covered the period from 78/79 - 87/88 and showed that the failure rate dropped from 10.6 per cent in the first year of the study to 7.6 per cent in the last year in the primary stage and the drop out rate was 1.5 per cent and dropped to just 0.7 per cent in the same period. Concerning the intermediate stage, Ahmad said that the percentage of both failures and drop outs reduced from 22.7 per cent in the first year of the study to only 11.8 per cent in the last year.

Process

But the case was different in the secondary stage. The percentages of both sections was only 15.4 per cent in the academic year 78/79, but it rose to more than the double in 87/88 to over 33.5 per cent. Ahmad said that one of the most important results of the study, is that squandering in the educational process in Kuwait has been constant throughout the years of the study, with slight variations from year to another. The percentage of failures and drop outs, remained around 15-

16 per cent every year from the total number of Kuwaiti students in the government schools. This percentage amounts to about 23,294 Kuwaiti students in the previous academic year.

Talking about the reasons for squandering in the educational process in Kuwait, Ahmad said that the difficulty to the ages of students are primary reasons. He also blamed the examination system for being responsible for failures of students and their dropping out. He added that the strictness of schools administration and some teachers also force students to either fail or run away from classes. He also blamed the teaching methods, describing them as arcane.

Upgrading

Ahmad proposed the upgrading of the educational system by making it attractive to students and by diversifying its channels to suit students abilities. He called for evaluating the teachers and training them. He also proposed carrying out a comprehensive field study to exactly determine the size of squandering in the educational process in Kuwait.

Commenting on the study, Director of the Farwaniya Educational Area Ibrahim Aba Al Khalil said that the percentage of failures and drop outs in the intermediate and primary stages are acceptable. But he pointed out that the study on drop out in the secondary stage ignored that most of these who drop out are girls getting married. If girls are not counted, then the percentage would be acceptable, he said.

Fintas cars pilfered

By Nawaf Al Hamell

RESIDENTS of the West Fintas area woke up Sunday morning to find their valuables stolen from their cars which were parked in front of their houses. Over 20 cars were robbed in the area. The

robbery took place in a very organised way, all by breaking the rear glass to force the cars open then steal valuables from inside. The residents informed the area police station, who immediately began investigations.



Globetrotters to return

The Harlem Globetrotters ended their 1989 Winners Arab World Tour in Morocco early June with a promise to return to the Middle East.

"It has been a really enjoyable tour," said veteran coach 'Tex' Harrison. "The players have loved seeing all these new countries and would very much like to return for another tour at some time in the future."

From the Middle East, the Globetrotters and their opponents the Washington Generals will be returning to the USA for a short holiday before beginning a tour of the USSR.

"We are looking at the possibility of bringing them back to the Middle East at some time, if it can be fitted in to their busy schedule," said a spokesman for the promoters. "Certainly this tour has been a great success and we are only sorry that more people couldn't get tickets to see the Globetrotters because nearly all the shows were sell-outs."

AIDS baby tragedy

THE tragic story of the birth of a baby carrying the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus contracted through his Egyptian mother, was disclosed by the Saudi newspaper 'Al Sharq Al Awwat'.

The mother was infected by her husband who was carrying the virus as a result of having sexual intercourse with some European females, the newspaper said.

Confession

Doctors conducted routine medical tests during the mother's pregnancy and discovered that she was infected with the AIDS virus. However, she refused to believe the accuracy of the analysis stating that she never had a blood transfusion all her life and called for fresh tests.

After she was confirmed as having been infected with AIDS, the woman said that her husband confessed that he had illegal sexual relations during his stay abroad.



Peninsula Shield Force

Commander of Kuwait's land forces Col. Abdul Aziz Al Bargash is seen here wishing members of the 5th Armoured Infantry Brigade of the Kuwaiti armed forces prior to their departure yesterday for Saudi Arabia. The brigade will participate in the exercises of the GCC Peninsula Shield Force.

KNPC petrol stations now run privately

THE Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has transferred the services of many of its workers at petrol stations to a local contracting company that is running the stations. The move follows the recent transfer of some of KNPC's petrol stations to the private sector to be run by local companies to develop services at these stations.

The contracting company covers overheads, wages and transportation of these workers.

An observer at a petrol station Ibrahim Rushdi has said that his petrol station is still subjected to administration of KNPC while workers belong to a private company. Most of the previous workers in the station are now jobless because the private company imported cheap manpower from outside Kuwait. He added that

KNPC had paid large amounts to train the dismissed workers to run the petrol stations.

Amman Ben Hussein a Tunisian national working as an attendant at one of the petrol stations that are run by private companies said that some drivers mistreat the attendants at the petrol stations which reflects on their dealing with customers. He added that accent might be a serious problem of communication between attendant and customers specially because there are many nationalities in Kuwait.

Abdul Kareem Mohammed who had been working in KNPC for the last 28 years has said that complaints of customers against the workers private companies in the petrol stations increased because of a lack of understanding.

Maternity doctor acquitted

By Sayed Othman

THE Criminal Court yesterday acquitted the doctor of the Maternity Hospital from the charge of amassing wealth through illegal means and released his accounts in the local banks. The court however refrained from issuing any sentence on the doctor concerning the second charge of accepting

bribes from patients. The court asked the doctor to pay a bail of KDS,000 and pledge to keep good conduct for 2 years. The doctor was caught red handed in his clinic at the hospital accepting bribes and an envelope containing a big amount of cash was found in the clinic. A female doctor who was present during the arrest told the court that she did not see the envelope.

Tuberculosis under control

TUBERCULOSIS in Kuwait is under control, according to the Head of the Chest Diseases Unit at the Chest Diseases Hospital, Dr Ghaleb Al Ghalyani who was interviewed by a local daily.

Ghalyani said that in the past, tuberculosis treatment was mainly built on good eating, exposure to the sun and clean air. This treatment was the only way to get rid of tuberculosis until the

mid forties when tuberculosis antibiotics were first discovered. He added that treatment was developed gradually until it reached the summit in the 70's with the discovery of comprehensive medical treatment. The treatment period of tuberculosis was cut short to only 6 months. A tuberculosis patient may be held at the hospital for up to two weeks only when the disease is strongest.

Special plant for Kaaba cloth

THE government of Saudi Arabia has established a special plant for manufacturing the cloth needed for the Kaaba according to specifications which amongst others stipulate that it should be of pure silk, of black colour with verses to be calligraphed manually, a local daily reported and added that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is devoting his personal attention to this aspect.

The late King Ben Abdulaziz Al Saud paid great concern to this issue since he unified the kingdoms provinces about 63 years ago when he established a special house for the Kaaba cloth.

This house had been developed during the reign of the late King Faisal who issued an order in 1382 AH for redesigning the Kaaba clothing plant and in 1397 AH the new plant was opened and was provided with the latest machines in addition to the manual spinning and weaving. The plant still keeps in line with the development process and the heritage survives to produce marvellous cloth for the holy Kaaba.

The daily reported that the cloth amounted to 14 metres height with a belt of 95 cm width with some verses of Holy Quran written on in addition to the phrase "La ilaha illa Allah - Muhammad Rasoul Allah - Allah Jala Jalalah - Subhan Allah wa Behaddehi - Subhan Allah Al-Aazeem." The belt is 47 metres length and consists of 16 pieces, embroidered and covered with silver thread coated with gold.

Under the belt Al-Ikhlis Sura is written inside a circle surrounded with Islamic ornament in addition to another six verses of Holy Quran written in separated frames.

The screen of the Kaaba door and veil is made of pure silk and dyed with black colour. The height of the screen is 7.5 metres and its width is four metres with some verses of Holy Quran calligraphed on. The screen is embroidered with some gold thread.

The technical designs and the writings on the Kaaba cloth are changed from year to year.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Mixed marriages the norm in Bahrain

THE concept of a mixed marriage is becoming increasingly common and acceptable, particularly in affluent societies of rich and developing nations of the world. In view of rapid development and economic prosperity in these areas over the past two decades there has been a dramatic change in people's lifestyle and social as well as cultural norms. With healthy employment prospects, less working hours, more leisure hours and more expendable income, the young generation, in particular, has more time and money to indulge in social or recreational activities. The young man finds himself leading an increasingly cosmopolitan and flexible lifestyle with a variety of options to spend his free time. Indeed the world is becoming smaller as more people are able to travel frequently and economically to most parts of the globe thereby coming into contact with population of various nationalities and cultures everywhere. Thanks to the flexibility of educational systems and foresight of governments, the youth in general worldwide have become broadminded and cosmopolitan in their approach and outlook to life without losing their roots and cultural identity.

Tradition

Today more and more young people are marrying partners of a foreign nationality. Mixed married couples, though a small segment in the population of the Gulf states, are increasing gradually. Bahrain is no exception. This tiny island nation enjoys the most cosmopolitan society in the region, without losing its national identity, thanks to centuries old tradition of foreigners coming and residing in this country. Therefore Bahrainis by nature and tradition have become more accustomed to working and living side by side with their foreign 'guests' than their other Gulf brothers.

The locals also have the reputation of extending genuine friendship and hospitality to visitors, which is unique in the region.

In the modern era, particularly since the discovery of oil in the early thirties, Bahrain has been host to a plethora of foreign nationals ranging from the British, Indians, Pakistanis, Americans, Europeans, Africans, other Arabs and in recent years the Filipinos.

Bahrain has proved to be a classic example of a model society where people from all parts of the world have been successfully and harmoniously living and working together with the indigenous population.

A decade and a half back marriage by a Bahraini with a foreigner was a rare event. Today it is no longer so, except when it concerns a Bahraini woman marrying a foreign man. The bulk of mixed marriages among Bahrainis now concern Bahraini men and foreign women. This trend has been going on for a number of years. The number has also been on the increase with the rise of expatriate population during the same period.

Young, educated and well employed Bahraini males are exposed to other cultures from a fairly early age and seem particularly influenced by the Western culture. With improving economic conditions these men, who are professionals in most cases, tend to enjoy an affluent lifestyle with a strong sense of independence. An average Bahraini 'yuppie' adopts a lifestyle similar to that of his Western counterpart in terms of clothing, cars and choice of female companionship. 'Dating' in the Western sense is not uncommon and frowned upon anymore. A Bahraini young man may be seen socialising with a foreign woman. Growing friendship can lead to permanent relationship and result in marriage.

Values

Generatively, Bahraini families with strong traditional and conservative values give in their son's choice of a foreign bride, but not without some initial apprehension. Thanks to the broadmindedness of the middle-class families especially, opposition to such a pact is confined to a few cases. However, it is extremely rare for a Bahraini girl to marry a foreigner.

Bahrain's young population is increasing rapidly. At the current rate of growth about 70 per cent of the island's population are under 30. Young Bahraini males of 'marriageable age' represent about 40 per cent of the local population.

According to available 1986 statistics there were a total of 2,311 mixed marriages in Bahrain among locals. About 170 cases concerned marriage of Bahraini males with foreign women. There was not a single case of a Bahraini girl marrying a foreigner.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LET me have my way exactly in everything, and you will find that a pleasant creature does not exist — Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian (1795-1881).

Libyan shadow looms over Chad

By Susan Linnee

IN the 29 years it has been an independent country, Chad has lived under the shadow of war, internal division, poverty and Libya.

Following the end of a decade of factional fighting in July 1987, the Central African nation has begun to bind its wounds and return to the business of developing and administering one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

But the shadow of Libya, Chad's northern neighbour, lingers on like a giant question mark, making Chadians wonder how long before their future can be separated from the plans of Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi.

President Hissene Habre, in a June 7 speech marking the seventh anniversary of his triumph over rival Chadian forces in June 1982, said Libyan troops and Chadian dissidents were preparing to launch an attack from the east with the help of neighbouring Sudan.

Sudan immediately called the claim "baseless," and said it was meant to mask Chad's internal political problems. But Habre insisted the threat is real.

Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif said in a recent interview that three former close Habre colleagues, who the government claimed were authors of a conspiracy unveiled in early April, actually were involved in smuggling large quantities of captured Libyan arms and ammunition into eastern Sudan.

He said the arms formed part of a large booty recovered when Chadian forces routed Libyan troops in the north in July 1987.

Hassan Djamous, armed forces chief at the time, Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahamat Ito and Habre's military adviser, Idriss Deby, all fled. Deby managed to make it to Libya and is reported to be in western Sudan with several thousand other Libyan-backed Chadian dissidents.

Moussa Seif said Djamous died in custody in N'Djamena after being shot while trying to escape security forces. He said Ito was in custody.

Last year, the Organisation of African Unity sought a reconciliation between Chad and Libya and subsequently arranged a ceasefire in September. Diplomatic relations were restored in October.

"Everyone else though Khaddafi had changed radically," said Moussa Seif, a former economy and commerce minister and comrade-in-arms of Habre during their days as Chadian rebels in Sudan. "But we (the government) never shared 100 per cent this point of view."

"Since the last OAU summit, we have always tried to discuss, but Khaddafi doesn't co-operate," he said.

Chad Foreign Minister Achille Mbongo and his Libyan counterpart, Jadhallah Azzou Al-Talhi, met briefly on June 17 in Gabon to discuss the future of the 45,600-square-mile (114,000-square-kilometre) Aouzou strip between the two countries, occupied by Libya since 1973.

The meeting broke up after just 90 minutes with no indication of progress in settling the dispute.

Asked whether Chad intended to continue holding some 2,000 Libyan prisoners of war until Libya returns the Aouzou, Moussa Seif said prisoners are normally not exchanged until a peace treaty has been signed. None has been proposed by Libya.

But Moussa Seif denied reports that Chad was helping form dissident Libyans into guerrilla units for operations inside Libya.

US and French diplomats in Chad emphasise hopes for continued peace in the country twice the size of France with an estimated five million inhabitants. But they offer no assessment of the seriousness of the Libyan menace.

They also refrain from comment on the reported Chadian training of Libyan dissidents.

But they do stress Chad's strategic position in Africa's heart. Libya lies to the North, Zaire to the South, Nigeria to the West and Sudan to the East.

A US State Department publication on aid to Chad says 7,000 Libyan troops remain in the Aouzou strip and that Chad's resistance helps contain Libyan expansionist ambitions and influence.

Since Khaddafi came to power 20 years ago, Libya has been enmeshed in Chad's internal affairs, supporting a rainbow of anti-government factions and tendencies over the years, including Habre's own.

Following Habre's defeat by arch-rival Moukoko Oueddei in December 1980, Libyan troops occupied much of Chad. There was talk of a union between the two countries.

In November 1981, Khaddafi suddenly withdrew his troops. Without their backing, Moukoko lost to Habre's superior forces the following June.

Under US and OAU pressure, France sent a 3,000-man force into Chad in August 1983 after Libyan-backed Moukoko forces attacked a series of northern outposts and oases.

Although the French troops were momentarily withdrawn in 1984 following Libyan assurances their forces would leave as well, a smaller French force of some 1,700 men soon returned to Chad, where the Libyans had remained all along.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who is scheduled to visit the former French colony later this year, has assured Habre the troops will stay as long as he needs them.

The United States, which has backed Habre ever since Libya sent troops into Chad in 1980, furnishes military aid to the country's armed forces, formed from a jumble of half a dozen armed factions. Chadian military personnel also undergo training in the United States.

The State Department has requested 10 million dollars in military assistance for Chad for 1990. The French do not disclose how much they supply.

Goukouni, a native of the Bardai oasis region just south of the Aouzou who splits his time between Tripoli and Algiers, is one of the few remaining former factional leaders who has yet to declare peace with Habre and return to Chad.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1661 — Peace of Kardin is signed between Russia and Sweden ending Northern war, and Russia abandons all claims to Livonia.

1793 — British under Lord Lake defeat Irish rebels at Vinegar Hill and enter Wexford, ending Irish rebellion.

1813 — British under Duke of Wellington rout French completely at Vittoria, forcing Joseph Bonaparte to flee from Spain to France.

1887 — Britain annexes Zululand, blocking Transvaal's attempts to gain access to coast.

1915 — Boer forces under Christian De Wets surrender at Bloemfontein, South Africa.

1919 — German fleet is scuttled in Scapa flow, Scotland.

1945 — Japanese forces on Okinawa surrender to Americans in World War II.

1960 — Britain, France, Netherlands and United States provide for a Caribbean organization for economic co-operation.

1962 — United States expresses concern over Chinese concentrations on mainland opposite Quemoy.

1963 — France withdraws Atlantic naval forces from NATO.

1965 — Houari Boumedienne tries to organize new government in Algeria after ousting and arresting President Ahmed Ben Bella.

1970 — Indo-China war erupts on dozen fronts in heaviest fighting since Vietnam conflict spread to Cambodia in April.

1971 — International Court of Justice in the Hague rules that South Africa's administration of territory of South-West Africa is illegal.

1976 — Rioting breaks out in black townships around Pretoria in South Africa.

1987 — International Energy Agency warns that world oil demand could exceed supply in 1990s.

1988 — Ten people are reported killed and 31 wounded as Yasser Arafat's commandos and Syrian-backed Palestinian rivals clash over control of two refugee camps in Lebanon.

Camp Canada Palestinians stranded for 7 years

Egypt's forgotten refugees await repatriation

By William C. Mann

BARBED wire doesn't stop the smell of tear-gas or the sound of exploding houses — the smell and sound of the Israeli Army's attempts to crush the intifada.

As they listen, the boys of Camp Canada, Egyptian home of the Palestinians the world has forgotten, leave no doubt they support the Arab militants in the thick of the intifada. From their pro-uprising T-shirts to their anti-Israel rhetoric, it is obvious they sympathize with the stone-throwing youth they are convinced will liberate their country, which many of them can hardly remember.

Their parents, who will remember Gaza, yearn for a homeland they can gaze at but can no longer claim as theirs.

Home is Rafah, Gazal, 135 feet (40 meters) away across two chain-link fences and numerous concertina rolls of barbed wire.

Israeli soldiers fatally shot three young men there last Friday, among the latest of at least 408 Palestinian deaths during the 18-month-old intifada, the uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Egypt-Gaza border bisected Rafah under Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1982, and about 5,000 Palestinians were stranded in Egypt's only refugee camp. Many of the 560 families involved were split, but they were promised they would be with relatives in occupied Gaza within a month.

Since then, the main medium of contact has been the "shouting fence," the international divide across which people shout the latest family news.

Neither Israeli nor Egyptian officials will talk about the seven-year embarrassment of Camp Canada, named for a Canadian peacekeeping unit that once quartered there. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said "the issue is under various discussions." Egyptian officials won't even say that.

But residents say an 11-week process is scheduled to begin this week that, if completed, will return to Gaza, 20 Camp Canada families, a total of 67 people, in the first organized repatriation programme.

On four successive days, five families are to enter the no-man's land between the Rafahs and meet with relatives and friends from the other side. Tentative plans call for the first two families to cross next Monday, with two to follow on each of the next nine Mondays.

Under a 1986 agreement, Egypt is to pay each family 8,000 dollars compensation. Residents said — and sources in Cairo confirmed — that Israel backed out of its commitment to give each returning family land and housing materials valued at \$9,000.

Evidence of the mood in Camp Canada is that the 20 families agreed to Israel's conditions. They will live with relatives.

After seven years and many broken promises, Camp Canada is an unhappy place. It seethes with emotions, most of them unpleasant: anger, frustration, resentment, resignation.

Much of the resentment is toward the United States, which camp residents perceive largely as

siding with Israel to the detriment of people like them.

"The key to our problem is America. The Americans are the only ones who can solve it," said a camp official. "Why don't they do something to make it happen?"

Outside, a group of boys discovered their visitors were Americans. The mood changed quickly from pleasant conversation to bitter confrontation.

Perhaps the camp's one upbeat emotion is hope spawned by the intifada, the anti-Israeli uprising.

Every well-dressed Camp Canada teenager wears a pro-intifada T-shirt. Teen-age girls carry on key chains or wear as pendants inch-long rocks sculpted in the shape of Palestine-Israel. They say the rocks are carved by protesters in Israeli jails and smuggled out of Gaza.

"We're up, up, up," said a man in his mid-20s, sitting in his father's house with his 18-month-old daughter on his lap. "If these martyrs and their spilled blood don't succeed, then what the hell will?"

"This is a camp of hope," the man said. "We believe if they allow 20 families to go, all of us will go someday."

For many, however, the hope is tempered with scepticism.

"We've been told we were going, then no," said a teacher at the Camp Canada School. "I will believe they're going when they're there."

Like most everybody in Camp Canada, neither man wanted his name used to avoid ranking Egyptian security authorities. Residents say people who talked with the press in the past have been detained, and some foreign reporters have been harassed.

The Palestinians' hosts have complicated their lives in other ways. One involves the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Egypt publicly considers the only voice of the Palestinians.

The PLO financed Camp Canada's school, but residents say the authorities delayed its construction through drawn-out negotiations. They also refused to allow the PLO to collect garbage in the camp, and residents say Egyptian collections stopped weeks ago, resulting in garbage piles fouling many streets.

The PLO's only presence remains the school, but since the intifada, support for the PLO has been more open, especially among the young.

As Palestinians, camp residents are foreigners forbidden from government jobs in Egypt's heavily government-dominated economy. Many have not worked for seven years. Others are underemployed or work on day jobs outside the camp.

"I'm an engineer, but I'm working as a carpenter," said Mustafa Kamel Eid Hawy, who was married in 1984 and now has two sons and a pregnant wife. "But I have to work, because I have a family. It's the uncertainty that is so very sad."

And frustrating. Carpenter Gamil Mohammed, who runs a kiosk with a Palestinian flag fluttering above, talked of smelling the tear-gas used against his compatriots across the no-man's land and of hearing the "boom" of houses being destroyed.

"They hope to go to another place. Home," (Egypt — AP)



Family ties have remained strong among Palestinian refugees as they await a solution to their problems.

Free-market ideas losing appeal

Shift to the left in Euro polls

By Simon Alterman

A SHIFT to leftist and ecologist parties in the European elections suggests the free-market philosophy which has dominated the European Economic Community's drive towards 1992 may be losing its allure.

Results of the polling last Thursday and on Sunday point to doubts among voters about the social, economic and environmental consequences of tearing down remaining barriers between the 12 EEC states over the next three years.

And a spectacular setback for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher could undermine her so far successful campaign to create an open and deregulated single European market in the image of her social and economic reforms in Britain.

"The basic thrust behind the single market was (economically) neo-liberal and deregulatory. It was made for Mrs Thatcher. These elections are a setback for the cause of ultra-liberalism," said one EEC ambassador.

European Economic Commission President Jacques Delors, a French Socialist and the butt of Thatcher's tirades against a powerful super-state controlled by Brussels, said the results reflected a wider political trend.

"At the start of the 1970s, after 20 years of almost total triumph for social democracy, the neo-liberal (economic) movement emerged...now there is a sort of backfire and the balance is being redressed," he said.

'Bourgeois' pursuits linger in Beijing

FROM short skirts and lipstick to irreverent rock music in dubious bars, Beijing's street life oozes 'bourgeois' exotica that have so far escaped a nation-wide campaign against Western ideas.

For the past two weeks China's leaders have rallied against 'bourgeois liberalism' — an umbrella term frequently used in the past to condemn a multitude of capitalist sins, most often democracy.

Last week senior leader Deng Xiaoping was quoted in the official media as declaring a new 'struggle' against 'elements' who want to subvert "the motherland into a totally Westernised bourgeois republic."

But ordinary people on the streets of the capital revelling in Western-style bars, paying a relative fortune for Western beauty treatments, listening to rock music or sporting the latest fashions expressed different opinions.

"If this is bourgeois liberalism, then the more we get of this the better," joked one young man standing near the flashing neon sign of one of Beijing's trendy new bars.

Inside the cubicle, low-lit bar, British rock music blared from a speaker as two Western businessmen held monosyllabic conversations with a couple of local hostesses.

A 21-year-old waitress said she planned to use her earnings to go to Australia where she hoped to find a husband.

"Do you think foreigners would find me pretty?" she asked, adding that she was thinking of having an eye-enlarging operation now quite common as a beauty treatment in Beijing.

"Chinese faces are finer than foreigners' but foreigners have better eyes," she added.

Some glorification of Western popular culture is unqualified. The words of a song about separated friends, one abroad and one left behind in China, articulate widely-held beliefs.

"You make your big business abroad, while I get by with oil, salt, soy sauce, vinegar and firewood."

"You feast on treasures from the mountains and delicacies of the sea, while I eat little onions and beancurd."

"You live in a foreign apartment and find a foreign guy, while I stay at home and fend for my old mother half."

"Your brain will soon get really sharp, while I slowly turn into a dunce."

It remains to be seen how long China's leaders can tolerate such open adoration for 'bourgeois' values but, for the moment, the onslaught appears to be mainly directed against students and others who have called for more democracy.

On June 4 troops and tanks thundered into central Beijing to crush student-led demonstrations for democratic freedoms. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of unarmed protesters were killed as hardline communist leaders seized the reins of power.

Many of the current rulers are one-time battle comrades of the late chairman Mao Tse Tung who supported his decades of the puritanical, insular rule after the 1949 communist revolution.

Under Mao's rule, China claimed to have eradicated prostitution, sexual diseases, pornography, gambling and other 'capitalist' vices that sapped revolutionary vigour.

But over the last 10 years of economic reforms and new policies of openness pushed through by Deng, most such vices have slowly crept back.

The street-scapes of Beijing, and other cities throughout the country, has radically changed. Young women wear short skirts, lipstick and earrings — virtually unheard of in the capital until about five years ago.

China has appeared willing to turn a blind eye to a lot of what it sees as negative Western influence because, as Deng is said to have remarked, if you open the window, a few flies are bound to come in.

Bars, hair stylists, sex 'education' magazines, pulp romance novels and even snooker tables have been other beneficiaries of the softer line. But, periodically, growing levels of Western 'pollution' have incurred the ire of the old leaders who have moved to stifle them.

"It is easy to tell when they are going to get tough," said one office worker. "The leaders start wearing Mao jackets and the People's Daily starts using words like 'struggle', 'serious' and 'elements'."

All the classic signs reappeared this month, he said, but so far authorities have taken little action to clear away 'bourgeois' traits.

Nevertheless, he said he was preparing for the worst. "My Mao jacket has been in my bottom drawer for the last six years. But now I am wondering whether to dust it off." — (Reuters — Beijing)

Alarm bells for Thatcher

Electoral triumph for Labour

By Marcus Ellason

THE distant alarm bells that have been sounding for months turned to shrill clamour over the weekend, telling Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that her revolution is in trouble.

Strikes, inflation and interest rates — the economic diseases Thatcher has fought for 10 years to eradicate — are haunting Britain again, and now comes a trouncing for her Conservative Party in European Parliament elections.

The government, while admitting its dismay, insists this doesn't mean the end for Thatcher's free-market crusade. It says voters always use elections to the European Parliament to register protest against governments in mid-term, and that the turnout of 36 per cent is too low to shape lasting judgements.

Nonetheless, the opposition Labour Party jubilation, having won its first national election victory since 1974, Labour has emerged with 45 of the 78 mainland British constituencies and the Tories 32, fully overturning the 45-32 advantage the Tories held in the 1984 Euro-election.

Labour, having revamped some of its more stridently left-wing policies to broaden its appeal, has "been making steady progress since early this year," said the party's foreign policy chief, Gerland Kaufman.

"Like the pace of it — don't want to go too fast, don't want a surge that can fall again" before Britain's next election, which must be held by June 1992, he said.

Former prime minister Edward Heath, an outspoken Thatcher foe in the Conservative Party, believes she is in serious trouble, saying:

"If after 10 years of government you've still got nearly two million unemployed, you've got an overall deficit on your trade and other dealings of £15 billion (\$23 billion), you've got interest rates up to 14 per cent and you've got inflation up to 8.3 per cent and rising, then people are bound to say... is this really what we want?"

Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson said: "We recognise all those things. We agree that inflation is a great curse. We're tackling it, and one isn't popular while one is serving up the medicine."

The inflation is widely ascribed to Thatcherism's own success in reviving the economy through tax cuts, deregulation, selling nationalised industries, abolishing foreign currency controls and curbing trade union rights.

The result has been a national spending spree, a sharp increase in the trade deficit, bigger wage demands and higher interest rates.

The unrest triggered by rising wage demands has raised the number of worker days lost to strikes from 38,000 in December to 82,000 in April. Wage hikes are running at 9.3 per cent, compared with 7.5 per cent two years ago. On Wednesday, Britain faces its first national rail strike since 1982.

A wage-inflation spiral would be a nightmare for any government. But even more trouble awaits Thatcher over her plans to shake up the legal, teaching and health services, her widely unpopular property tax reform and her insistence on privatising the national water and electricity industries.

Voters may also have been put off by her combative stance toward the European Economic Community, which she has portrayed as a bureaucracy bent on forcing socialism down the British throat.

"I think the general public are fed up with Euro-bashing," Heath said.

Despite Thatcherism's difficulties, no neutral observer is ready to write her off. Thatcher has hit low patches before, her supporters say, yet she remains the only British prime minister in more than 160 years to win three consecutive elections.

Strikes may be recurring, but the number of days lost is nothing near the 30 million in the last year before she ousted Labour in 1979. Inflation has yet to approach the double-digit permanency of the years immediately before Thatcher's ascent.

Many voters seem to feel that having spent 10 years tackling Britain's health and water, a widespread feeling prevails that if there is no evident problem, there is nothing to be fixed.

Simon Jenkins, writing in the pro-Thatcher Sunday Times, said the environmentalist Green Party reflected a yearning for a community Thatcher, (AP — London).

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gulf oil supply high in June

ABUDHABI, June 20, (Reuters): Gulf oil states kept output high in June and 10 days before a new OPEC pact comes into force regional oil analysts say.

Analysts said oil prices would plummet in the next three months if high OPEC output was maintained.

Kuwait officials said today they have already started to lower output and that it will not exceed 1.35 million barrels per day (BPD) in July.

Kuwait has rejected its quota of 1.093 million BPD for the second half of this year, fixed this month at a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Analysts said Kuwait's domestic and European refining system absorbs almost one million BPD and that it has contracted to sell 100,000 BPD to Japan.

"This leaves Kuwait with only 250,000 BPD to sell to (other) Western countries, which is nothing by Kuwaiti standards," one analyst said.

Industry sources said none of the other Gulf OPEC members — Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar — seemed to have lowered their output in June.

"June (output) seems to be just like May, if not higher," a Gulf oil industry analyst said. "They (Gulf OPEC members) seem to be enjoying the last month of the old ceiling."

The six Gulf OPEC states make up two-thirds of the total OPEC output ceiling, which will rise to 19.5 million BPD in the second half of this year from 18.5 million in the first half.

In May, total OPEC output was estimated at 21 million BPD in a Reuters survey.

Bank chief resigns

BRASILIA, Brazil, June 20, (AP): Elmo Camoes, president of Brazil's Central Bank, has resigned following a major stock market scandal, a bank official said.

"The request was informal and Camoes will deliver an official letter of resignation today or tomorrow," the source said on condition of not being identified.

He said President Jose Sarney accepted Camoes' resignation but had not decided on a successor.

One cheque for \$8.8 million in local currency issued to a brokerage house was returned for lack of funds. Trading at Brazilian stock markets dropped sharply.

OPEC could boost output to 20m BPD

RENO, Nevada, June 20, (OPECNA): OPEC secretary-general Dr Subroto said yesterday that OPEC's oil production ceiling could be raised to 20 million BPD from October 1 "in the event of a higher level of oil demand."

He was confident that the "oil market will remain in fundamental balance in the third and fourth quarters," pointing out that the eight-member OPEC ministerial market monitoring committee, due to meet in September, was "empowered to review" the organisation's total output.

OPEC's current oil production ceiling for the second half of 1989 stands at 19.5 million BPD around a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

Addressing the US interstate oil compact commission on "OPEC and the future of oil," Subroto said the oil market of the 1990s would be "radically different" from that of the present decade as it was likely to be "tight". He warned that as "more accessible" oil was extracted, "we shall become increasingly dependent on the less easily accessible sources of oil supply."

He spoke of a "collective vision" of the oil market which "allows for the co-ordin-

ation of market stabilisation policies" between OPEC and independent producers. He also highlighted the benefits to be gained by the consumer from a stable international oil market, pointing out that "predictable" oil flows would remove the feeling of "insecurity" in making investment decisions.

The need for producers and consumers to co-operate "goes beyond the requirement of harmony," he said, because basically it was in the self-interest of all concerned to work for a stable oil market.

OPEC had always striven to establish an "equitable level of oil prices, aimed at compensating for both the continual fall in real oil prices and the drop in the purchasing power of a barrel of oil, as well as for our worsening oil terms of trade."

Subroto was critical of the "restrictive practices and discriminatory policies" of national and international consumer groups, something which could only "run counter" to OPEC's market stabilisation policies.

"The eventual acceptance by such groups as the European Economic Community that all producers and consumers

are responsible partners in the international oil market would mean that they could relax their restrictive measures on OPEC oil and concentrate on energy planning, and thus contribute to the quest for global stability."

The outcome of OPEC's "market behaviour" and the future of oil would depend on "many variables," some internal, others external, with the organisation having "no control, whatsoever," over the latter.

World economic performance, non-oil energy prices, world oil demand growth and the success or failure of oil exploration efforts in non-OPEC areas, were other factors that could influence the future oil market.

The OPEC secretary-general was confident that in the 1990s, the world energy mix would evolve in an "orderly manner," adding that the "anticipated balance" was "easily compatible" with OPEC's sustainable oil production capacity.

The projected increase in OPEC's world oil market share would lead to the "resolution of the influence, which is our due" on account of the size of member countries' reserves. OPEC would use its market

influence to maintain supply in consonance with developments in world oil requirements, keep prices stable within an equitable range and keep up an "orderly transition" in world energy markets.

"In other words, we shall strive to restore stability to the oil market and defend a responsible order in market fundamentals... a higher market share for OPEC will help create a positive oil market environment in which our large reserves will continue to be needed by all oil consumers well into the next century."

While OPEC had nothing "in principle" against free markets in the "sense of a competitive market regime," it was convinced that as a strategic commodity, the security of oil supply and demand would be assured under a situation of "market management," something that "precludes an artificial limitation to supply and demand."

He said that if the term "market management" did not sound acceptable, it could be substituted with the word "co-operations". OPEC did not have a "trade dispute" in mind, nor was it suggesting the allocation of oil on the "basis of any criteria other than prices."

Saudi Arabian trade surplus drops

Petrochemical exports double

NICOSIA, June 20, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's trade surplus fell in 1988 but petrochemical exports more than doubled, official figures showed today.

A study by the Ministry of Finance, carried by the Saudi Press Agency and received in Nicosia, put the kingdom's trade surplus, excluding re-exported goods, at 7.31 billion riyals (\$1.95 billion) in 1988.

The previous year, Riyadh achieved a huge rise in its trade surplus of 9.29 billion riyals (\$2.48 billion) from a modest 1.36 billion (\$360 million) in 1986 when oil prices tumbled.

Prices crashed again in 1988 and briefly fell below \$10 a barrel

in the second half but crude values have picked up since and the Gulf's Dubai benchmark is currently selling at \$14.65 a barrel.

The study said Riyadh's "plastics and chemicals" exports surged by 68.6 per cent to a record 1.01 billion riyals (\$269 million) while some goods were re-exported for 23.92 billion riyals (\$6.38 billion), a 112 per cent rise from 1987.

"Exports of national products" rose by 5.1 per cent in 1988 to 88.89 billion riyals (\$23.69 billion) while imports also increased by 8.3 per cent to 81.58 billion riyals (\$21.75 billion), the study said.

It did not give a figure for Saudi Arabia's crude exports estimated at around \$20 billion a year.

Some 1.8 per cent of Riyadh's imports came from China in 1988 but the United States, Japan and other Western countries remained the leading trading partners of the staunchly anti-communist kingdom.

Riyadh has spent billions in the past 10 years building an advanced petrochemical industry and is negotiating with the European Economic Community in an attempt to ease EEC tariffs on cheap Gulf petrochemicals.

Industrial countries boost consumption

Investment soars

WASHINGTON, June 20, (AP): Americans, Japanese and West Europeans have been boosting both their consumption and their investment during the 1980s but developing countries have lagged in both, according to the latest figures from the World Bank.

The average Japanese, for example, used up \$5,269 worth of goods in 1980 and \$6,206 worth in 1987. The average for the 12 countries of the European Economic Community rose from \$6,127 to \$6,922. In the United States consumption rose to an average \$8,957 from \$7,609.

Investment rose too — that is, the building of new factories and machinery that create more production and jobs for the future. Americans on average invested the least of the three, and much of the money was borrowed abroad, but there was a rise from \$1,918 to \$2,373 per capita. The European rise was smaller, from \$2,338 to \$2,432. Japan's increase was greater, from \$2,994 to \$3,801.

The figures from the World Bank have just appeared in the 1988-1989 edition of its "World Tables," a 650-page volume that consists mostly of statistical lists. They cover subjects ranging from incomes to high school registration and life expectancy.

The book uses the value of the US dollar in 1980 as a measuring stick. The last results in the book are for 1987. The bank does not get the data independently, but takes figures supplied by the individual governments and then adapts them for its comparative tables.

Firm trend unclear

Dollar edges higher

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters): The dollar edged higher today but markets were wary after last week's plunge and uncertain about where the US currency is headed next.

It opened in London under pressure at 197.04 marks and 143.60 yen, dipped because of selling then stuttered higher through the day to a London close of 197.75 and 144.15.

The background factor checking the dollar's surge of recent weeks was a series of violent swings on currency markets last Thursday when the dollar was knocked from 2-1/2-year highs by profit-taking and heavy central bank intervention.

Until then, there had seemed no end to a surge in the dollar

which began in May and which has caused concern among Western governments worried that it would spread inflation and further distort world trade imbalances.

"Nobody knows if the dollar's rise to around two marks (late last week) was justified or if it was just exaggerated," said one Frankfurt dealer.

The pound's rally helped share prices because dealers believe it may make further interest rate rises to defend the currency unnecessary. The financial Times 100-share index closed 10.1 points higher at 2164.8.

Gold closed at \$366.25 an ounce compared to yesterday's finish of 366.75.

BA, KLM to take stakes

Sabena forges alliance

BRUSSELS, June 20, (Reuters): Belgian carrier Sabena today unveiled a pioneering alliance with British Airways and KLM of the Netherlands, crowning a three-year search for a partner to help it confront mounting competition in Europe.

Share analysts called the deal the broadest cross-border partnership reached by national European airlines, adding it could dramatically affect the European industry as a whole.

Sabena chairman Carlos van Rafeleghem said BA and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines would buy a 20 per cent stake each in a new subsidiary grouping his firm's air transport business after a capital increase. It will be called Sabena World Airlines.

He gave no financial details of the deal, but said Sabena would hold the remaining 60 per cent but that Luxembourg's Luxair may also join the deal.

"To this effect Sabena will take the fullest advantage of the liberalisation of the scheduled airline industry," Van Rafeleghem told a news conference.

Partnership

One analyst, who declined to be named, said the partnership would create a formidable force in the European Economic Community airline industry which competitors could not ignore.

"This could start a series of structural changes for European airlines," the Brussels-based industry analyst said.

"It will increase the urgency of other medium-sized airlines to get partners and it will cause big carriers to reassess their competitive positions on the European continent," he added.

Sabena, which ranked 15th among West European airlines in 1987 on a basis of passengers carried world-wide, has been looking for a foreign alliance for at least three years.

The EEC, working towards an open air transport market within the 12-nation bloc after 1992, adopted limited measures to deregulate the government-controlled industry in 1987. The EEC's executive commission will next month unveil its proposals for a sweeping new round of liberalisation.

Van Rafeleghem said the deal would supply Sabena with fresh capital, help it expand its network, and develop Brussels into a major continental hub.

He said the agreement would also involve so called block space agreements — whereby one airline helps sell space on another airline's flight — and code-sharing — which consists of grouping flights of different airlines as one.

BA and KLM meanwhile would gain increased access to Brussels airport, which unlike Britain's strained Heathrow, could double the traffic it handles given appropriate investment.

Van Rafeleghem said the European Commission, which will have vet the plan to ensure it does not violate EEC competition rules, would also be notified.

The link-up must also be ratified by the three airline boards and the Belgian Parliament but Van Rafeleghem expected Sabena World Airlines to start operating in January.

Membership liberalised

AIPPI agrees

THE International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI), a grouping of intellectual property organisations, has agreed to the principle of accepting Arab national organisations to its membership. The resolution is to take effect after completion of the formal procedures.

This came in a statement made by the chairman of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP) Talal Abu Ghazaleh following his participation in the AIPPI's thirty-fourth annual meeting which was concluded recently in Amsterdam.

He said that this accomplishment came as a result of the continued efforts made by ASPIP during the last two years and added that all industrial property organisations that ASPIP helped to establish, namely ASPIP (Jordan), ASPIP (Egypt) and ASPIP (Lebanon) will be admitted as members of AIPPI upon the finalisation of the formal procedures.

Moreover, the resolution will enable other Arab countries to enjoy such membership upon establishment of their own national societies.

Talal Abu Ghazaleh declared that ASPIP will continue its efforts until the flags of Arab countries fly side by side with those of other member countries of AIPPI in order to establish a role for Arab organisations which matches its civilisation, history, potentials and ambitions.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab countries and Central Africa are the only areas in the world represented so far regionally, while other countries are represented by their own national associations.

Abu Ghazaleh expects that AIPPI's resolution will encourage Arab countries which do not have national societies yet, to do so to increase Arab representation in the AIPPI in order to support their efforts along with that of developing countries to gain better conditions for the transfer of technology.

ASPIP president noted the fact that the organisation has gained the observer status with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), a UN agency, in mid-1987 thus being the first Arab non-governmental organisation to gain such status.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, June 20, (Reuters): Offshore buying and demand from domestic institutions nudged the Australian share market higher by the close. The All Ordinaries index rose 9.7 to 536.4.

TOKYO: Blue chips led the market to a morning rebound but share prices hovered in a narrow band most of the afternoon, closing broadly higher in moderate trading. The Nikkei gained 220.29 to close at 3,233.47.

HONG KONG: Stocks drifted slightly lower in thin and uneven trading in the absence of fresh corporate or political news. The Hang Seng index fell 4.7 to 1,087.4.

2,337.71. SINGAPORE: The market closed mixed in subdued trading. The Straits Times industrial index slipped 1.28 to 1,303.12.

BOMBAY: Prices rose selectively in hectic trading behind market leaders Tata Steel and Tata Engineering and Locomotive Co., TELCO, which posted a net profit of Rs 700.3 million, jumped Rs 24 to 847.5. Tata Steel rallied 30 to 1,390 on expectations of a similar improvement in results.

ZURICH: Shares closed at their highest level of the year, boosted by declining Swiss interest rates. The All-Share index rose 5.6 to 1,087.4.

ALAHLI'S TRAVELLERS CHEQUES

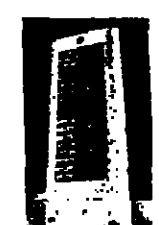
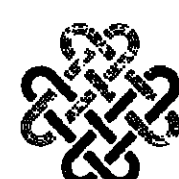
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International Bond Highlights

LONDON: Euro Credit Card Trust-1 is issuing a 300 mln dlr Eurobond due July 15, 1994 paying 9-1/4 pct priced at 101-1/8 pct, lead manager Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd said. It said this is the first Eurobond to be backed by Credit Card receivables.

LONDON: Banque Nationale de Paris is issuing a 75 mln stg Eurobond due July 10, 1992, paying 12-3/8 pct and priced at 101.30 pct, joint-lead manager Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd said. BNP itself is the other joint lead manager.

LONDON: The Northern Rock Building Society is issuing a 75 mln stg floating rate note due July, 1992 paying 1/16 point over the three month libor and priced at par, lead manager UBS-Phillips and Drew said.

LONDON: Swedbank is issuing a 100 mln dlr Eurobond due July 19, 1989 paying 9.70 pct and priced at 101-7/8 pct, lead manager Salomon Brothers International said.

LONDON: The US Student Loan Marketing Association (SALLIEMAE) is issuing a 100 mln dlr Eurobond due July 20, 1993 paying nine pct and priced at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager Fuji International Finance Ltd said.

LONDON: NYK International PLC, a unit of Japanese Shipping Company Nippon Yusen KK, is issuing a 100 mln dlr Eurobond due Jul 18, 1994 paying 9-1/2 pct and priced at 101-7/8 pct, lead manager Mitsubishi Finance International Ltd.

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World Bank to ponder \$700m for China

WASHINGTON, June 20, (AP): Major governments that run the World Bank, led by the United States, must decide by the end of the month whether to approve \$700 million in easy loans they have been planning to give China.

Pastor Sison, a spokesman for the bank, pointed out that June 30 marks the end of its fiscal year. Its lending programme calls for approval of nearly \$2 billion for China over the preceding 12 months, but 700 million has not yet been approved by the 22 members of the board of executive directors.

They represent the 151 member governments. The United States has the largest voting power, more than 18 per cent.

Bank officials won't say if China's repression of street demonstrators this month will play a role in whether the loan is granted. They say the bank is concerned

above all over whether anything that has happened would affect China's ability to handle its obligations to the bank.

World Bank member nations, however, are believed to be considering whether the granting of a fresh loan to China now would be interpreted as a vote of confidence for the Chinese leadership, with political overtones.

At the bank's headquarters in Washington, the last weeks of June see a rush of board action on loans to meet the schedule for the fiscal year. Sison said it would be hard to shift the 700 million planned for China to other borrowers.

"It depends on how far advanced the loans are," he said in an interview.

"Loans take a certain amount of preparation."

China was due to be the bank's third biggest borrower this year, after India and

Mexico. The bank, the largest source of aid to Third World countries, is planning to lend a total of \$20 to 21 billion.

Immediately after Chinese troops resorted to gunfire to clear demonstrators from the Tiananmen Square area in Beijing on June 4, the World Bank immediately pulled out all but one of its eight permanent staffers in the Chinese capital.

The international staff in Washington — headed by president Barber Conable, an American — decided the following Thursday not to submit to the board a proposed long-term loan of \$60 million to help farming in China's Jiangxi province. Such loans carry interest at less than 1 per cent a year.

Sison said withholding the loan was Conable's decision. He added that the bank staff wanted time to see if there would be any interruption in China's carrying out

its agreements with the bank.

Sison reported that the Chinese government immediately promised that its obligations would continue to be fulfilled on schedule. Zhang Junyi, a Chinese, is one of the 22 board members, stationed in Washington. Edwin Lim — a Filipino who heads the bank's mission in Beijing — has returned to his post, Sison said. Two bank officials from Washington have joined him for talks there.

Sison said that on June 13 the bank staff decided to hold back two more loans from the board: one for \$180 million to improve China's electricity supply, and one for \$50 million to help technical schools.

Atilla Karaosmanoglu, a Turk who is the bank's vice president for Asia, told reporters last week that talks were on in Beijing about resuming consideration of the loans.

World Bank loans for India

WASHINGTON, June 20, (AP): The World Bank has approved \$610 million in new loans for India, including credit for a \$450-million project to upgrade 80 enterprises in India's electronics and software industry as well as 30 training centres.

Three loans totalling \$210 million will finance part of a \$450-million project to upgrade 80 enterprises in India's electronics and software industry as well as 30 training centres.

Those centres are expected to train 4,000 workers each year for the electronics field, the World Bank said in a statement yesterday.

Investments in the project are expected to generate a total of about 12,000 jobs, the statement said.

Production of electronics products in India grew at an average annual rate of 22 per cent between 1980 and 1987, reaching nearly \$4 billion in 1987, the World Bank statement said.

The three loans will go to the Industrial Bank of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corp. of India Ltd and the Indian government.

The remainder of the financing will come from the Swiss Development Corp., the Japan Grant Facility and local sources, the announcement said.

A larger loan for \$400 million, was announced by the World Bank to finance facilities aimed at helping overcome electric power shortages in western India, which includes Bombay.

The World Bank credit will be combined with \$944 million worth of other financing in a \$1.3-billion, seven-year project to expand operations of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board, the announcement said.

Included in the project are repairs for the Koyna River Dam, a 1,000-megawatt addition to the Koyna hydropower plant and expansion of the transmission and distribution system and strengthening of the electricity board's management-information system, the bank said.

The 20-year World Bank loans carry a variable interest rate, currently 7.65 per cent.

Foreign buyers turning to Korea from China

FOREIGN buyers, who have switched their import sources to China from Korea due to price increases of Korean products and the won's revaluation against the dollar, are moving to return to Korea because of the turmoil in China, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. said.

According to its survey of foreign buyers' reactions to the Chinese situation, many foreign buyers are showing signs of seeking import sources again in Korea, especially in the fields of low priced light industry products, because of Chinese exporters' breach of contracts and failure to meet deadlines.

KOTRA conducted a survey of 223 foreign importing firms through its branch offices stationed in Asia, North America and Europe. By region, Japan expects that its trade with China would decrease about 20 per cent this year from the \$19.4 billion level a year ago, the KOTRA report said.

The Asian countries, including Japan and Hong Kong, are expected to take a "wait-and-see" attitude for the time being before shifting import sources from China.

However, if political unrest is expected to continue in China for the long run, Japan will consider buying import goods in Korea, KOTRA predicted.

Hong Kong which generally imports low-priced goods as clothes, footwear and toys, Hong Kong might look to Korea for imports, it added.

Oil giants unveil petrol price cuts

Wholesale prices set to fall further

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters): Britain's major oil companies have announced petrol price cuts in line with a trend towards lower pump prices in other West European countries.

British Petroleum Co. PLC and the British subsidiaries of Exxon Corp and Royal Dutch/Shell said last yesterday they were cutting the cost of leaded premium grade petrol.

The announcements followed last week's cut by Petrofina (UK) Ltd, which trimmed prices by six pence (9.3 cents) a gallon (4.5 litres), saying it wanted to pass on a fall in international oil prices to its customers.

Esso said it had reduced its price by between 2.5 pence (3.88 cents) and 6.5 pence (10.1 cents) over the past few days, while BP said it would reduce the wholesale price of its petrol by 3.1 pence (4.8 cents) a gallon from midnight today.

Shell is knocking 6.4 pence (9.9 cents) a gallon off its price from midnight tomorrow, a spokesman said.

"We hope there won't be further price cuts. The reduction reflects the movement in the open market and that could change at any time. The dollar-sterling exchange rate also affects prices," he said.

Oil prices are quoted in dollars, and the US currency has risen sharply against sterling in recent weeks.

Wholesale petrol prices in north-western Europe have tumbled in recent weeks and traders expect them to fall further.

Consumers have frequently

criticised British petrol companies for failing to pass on cheaper petrol prices to the motorist. Petrol companies are currently under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission watchdog after allegations that they were operating a price-fixing cartel.

Meanwhile, Gateway, Britain's third-largest supermarket chain, said today it had accepted a £2-billion-pound (\$3.1 billion) friendly takeover bid put together by a US investment bank.

Using a Wall Street-style "leveraged buyout," a partnership organised by Wasserstein Perella and Co. of New York outbid Isoscies PLC, a recently formed British investor group which still has a chance to improve its offer.

If successful, the Wasserstein Perella bid would be Europe's biggest leveraged buyout — a deal in which funds are raised to take over a company using that company's assets as collateral for the borrowing.

The bid was made through Newgateway, a company set up by Wasserstein Perella and West German-controlled US food retailing giant, Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. (A and P) specifically to buy Gateway Corp PLC.

"The board of Gateway unanimously recommends the Newgateway offer," said a company statement.

Gateway's shares jumped 7-1/2 pence (11.5 cents) to \$22.22 (\$3.44) on London's Stock

Exchange after news that the bid had been accepted.

Newgateway's offer of £2.25 (\$3.50) a share compares with an Isoscies bid of £2.10 (\$3.25).

In a separate statement Isoscies, which also formed to bid for Gateway, said it had the right to revise its offer, which was made in April and closes on Thursday now that a competitive situation existed.

Share analysts were divided over whether Isoscies, which includes former Gateway managers, could come up with a higher leveraged bid. "The chances are they have very little ammunition left," one food share analyst said.

But Sara Carter, food retailing shares analyst at Nomura Research, said: "Yes, I think there's a possibility they can come up with the money. I don't think we should assume at this stage that Isoscies are pulling out."

Isoscies currently controls 26.7 per cent of Gateway.

Gateway, which owns 800 stores, said it had accepted the Newgateway offer because it was substantially higher and more solidly financed than the rival bid.

It said the offer would bring proven retailing skills to Gateway and showed a commitment to the existing business.

Gateway, behind Britain's J. Sainsbury PLC and Tesco PLC in revenues, has tried to improve sales by expanding its floor space, freshening up old stores and opening larger outlets.

Demand for flights in Europe might triple by 2000

GENEVA, June 20, (AP): Airlines may have to triple the number of flights in Europe by the year 2000 if they are to keep up with the expected increase in passengers, the International Air Transport Association said yesterday.

Such an increase in capacity will only be possible if governments spend more money on expanding airports and runways and set up a Central European air traffic control system to tackle air congestion, said John Brindley, spokesman for the air industry lobby.

IATA had previously predicted the number of flights would have to double by the end of the century to meet anticipated demand.

The new estimate is based on reports from airlines and airports as part of an IATA-funded study into European air traffic congestion.

Brindley said in 1988 about 137 million people travelled on scheduled flights operated by the major European airlines. This did not include passengers on charter flights or on smaller airlines, he said.

The Geneva-based group representing most of the world's commercial airlines estimates that international air traffic currently totals about one billion per year.

US \$78m in arrears to FAO

ROME, June 20, (Reuters): The United States is \$78 million behind in contributions to the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation and both Washington and Japan have made no payments so far for 1989, the FAO said today.

Director-general Edouard Saouma, appealing for prompt payment by all member nations, said the United States, FAO's largest donor and meant to provide 25 per cent of its funds, was in arrears for 1986, 1987 and 1988.

"The future of FAO depends on the resources at its disposal to meet new and increasing needs," Saouma told the opening of a 10-day session of the FAO council.

"In view of population expansion and the persistent economic crisis in the poorest countries, it must be recognised that there can be no lasting solution without an expansion of our activities and therefore our resources," he said.

He said Tokyo, which contributes 13 per cent to the FAO budget, and Washington had not made any payment in the current year and other members were in arrears to a lesser degree.

He said a cash crisis had led to programme cuts and reduced services amounting to \$25 million in 1987 and \$20 million in 1988.

Saouma proposed a nominal one per cent net growth in FAO's budget for 1990 and 1991 from the \$492 million for 1988-89.

Plan too ambitious, say critics

Latins seek to cut \$401b debt by half

CARACAS, June 20, (Reuters): Latin America hopes to agree this week on a proposal to cut its \$401-billion foreign debt by half.

"We have to devote all our efforts to reaching a united proposal," Carlos Perez Del Castillo, permanent secretary of the 26-nation Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), said at the start of a two-day conference.

The SELA meeting, attended by deputy finance ministers from member countries, must achieve results by tomorrow or see the regional blueprint lose credibility, he said.

Under the plan, announced in May, the region's foreign debt would be cut by 50 per cent and payments by 75 per cent with the conversion of half the debt into long-term bonds guaranteed by creditors. Critics call the plan too ambitious.

"We are seeking greater convergence among ourselves," President Minister Reynaldo Figueredo, speaking on behalf of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, said in a speech opening the meeting.

Perez Del Castillo said successful debt reduction could free Latin economies to grow at rates of up to seven per cent a year as they did in the 1960s and 1970s. In the current decade, growth slowed to between one and two per cent as countries repaid their debt instead of investing in development.

"There is no future for Latin America and the Caribbean without economic development," he said.

Delegates from Peru, Mexico, Venezuela,

Nicaragua and Jamaica told Reuters they backed the SELA plan in general terms and did not see it as unrealistic.

"We consider it a bold proposal," said Hugh Taylor, director of the macro-economics division of Jamaica's Planning Institute.

While welcoming efforts to cut Third World debt, including the plan proposed by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, the officials said they were concerned at the resistance of creditor banks to implement them.

Latin America owes most of its foreign debt to commercial banks. Figueredo said the banks were hardening their attitude and were not doing enough to help prepare regulations to permit debt reduction.

Finance ministers from seven Latin American nations said in Caracas on Saturday they would ask leading developed countries next month to encourage new banking and fiscal regulations to make debt reduction more attractive to their private banks.

Separately yesterday, delegates from the 126 developing countries of the so-called Group of 77 began technical meetings in Caracas ahead of a ministerial-level meeting tomorrow.

Discussions may include plans to cut the Third World foreign debt but a joint initiative on debt was unlikely, Venezuelan diplomats organising the event said.

Garment industry is a Dhaka success story

DHAKA, Bangladesh, June 20, (AP): Sewing machines are serving as the impetus of a quiet revolution in Bangladesh, giving women an alternative to poverty, early marriage and frequent childbirth.

In this overpopulated, disaster-prone nation, the garment industry has established itself as a success story both economically and socially.

Nahar was 12 when her family arranged her marriage to a bicycle-rickshaw puller who she said beat her. By 16, she was a deserted wife with an infant son.

Traditionally, the only respectable options for such a poor village girl would have been to remarry or become a maid. The other possibilities in Bangladesh's limited female labour market were husking rice, pounding bricks and stones into gravel at construction sites, or prostitution.

Instead, a few months after Nahar's husband cashed her out in 1985, a relative offered her a job in the fledgling garment industry.

Now 20, she works as sewing machine operator at Y.K. Garments, on Elephant

Road in the center of Dhaka, and sends half her monthly salary of 900 takas (about \$28) home to her mother to take care of her 5-year-old son. Her annual salary of \$336 is more than double the country's average per capita income of \$160.

"I feel I'm the happiest woman on earth. No one beats me anymore almost every night. I'm independent and I earn my own money," Nahar said, flashing a smile. Like many Bangladeshis, she does not use a last name.

Such independence is still a rare option for most Bangladeshi women, but it is a beginning — and it is growing.

About 300,000 women work in Bangladesh's clothing factories, making up 90 per cent of the industry's workforce. Government statistics show the number of export-oriented clothing factories swelled from four in 1979 to 722 in 1988.

Export earnings from the industry shot up from \$500,000 in 1979 to \$450 million in 1988 and now bring in 35 per cent of the nation's foreign exchange.

Today Bangladesh is the fifth-largest exporters of ready-made clothing to the United States, after Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and China, according to the US embassy.

"The beauty of this sector is that Bangladesh has a great potential to expand," said Abul Ehsan, chairman of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association. "We could easily earn \$700 million in course of a year and half."

In addition to providing a much-needed boost to the national economy, the garment industry could make a small dent in population growth if more women choose to marry later, thereby reducing their child-bearing years.

Bangladesh is the world's most densely populated land after the city-states of Hong Kong and Singapore. At the current birth rate, the population of 110 million will double within 35 years, further taxing living space and agricultural land in a country constantly buffeted by floods, droughts and cyclones.



Police officer charges miners

A paramilitary police officer on horseback charges miners in Brussels who were protesting over the early closure of the Belgium's last two coal mines. Police said 30 police and 10 miners were injured in the pitched battles which took place in Brussels. (Reuters wirephoto)

Personal spending up

Economy poised for growth

TOKYO, June 20, (UPI): Spurred by brisk personal consumption and private-sector capital investment, Japan's gross national product for fiscal 1988 ended March 31 grew a net 5.1 per cent over a year ago, surpassing the government's projection of 4.9 per cent, the economic planning agency reported today.

The agency said it was the second straight year that the nation's GNP had expanded at an annual rate of more than 5.0 per cent.

Net GNP growth for 1987 was 5.2 per cent.

The agency said Japan's GNP

for 1988 totalled 371,276.5 billion yen (\$2.56 trillion), up 5.7 per cent in nominal terms or up 5.1 per cent in real terms.

Agency officials said domestic demand boosted the GNP by 6.8 per cent while exports caused a 1.7 per cent adverse effect for the third consecutive year.

The officials said personal spending grew 1.9 per cent while capital investment by the private sector jumped 6.6 per cent.

Imports increased 8.6 per cent, topping a 7.6 per cent rise in exports, the officials said.

In the last quarter of fiscal 1988, the inflation-adjusted

GNP grew 2.2 per cent for an annualised rate of 9.1 per cent, the officials said.

Personal consumption jumped in the quarter, spurred by a rush of buying ahead of Japan's first sales tax April 1, they said. Under the new tax system, a 3.0 per cent tax is levied on most goods and services.

"GNP growth may slow down in the April-June period because of the new tax but we consider it a temporary phenomenon," a spokesman for the agency said.

"Basically, Japan's economy remains on an expansionary stage," the official said.

Air show comes to an end

Record attendance of exhibitors

PARIS, June 20, (AP): The 38th Paris Air Show closed yesterday after recording its highest-ever number of visitors and exhibitors, organisers said.

The 10-day show featured demonstration flights by more than 210 aircraft, press conferences attended by more than 2,000 accredited journalists and business deals arranged amid the luxurious, hi-tech stands and pavilions of 1,600 exhibitors.

The prestigious, biannual show had an inauspicious start, June 8 when a single-seater Soviet fighter jet, the MiG-29, crashed executing a low flypass during its demonstration flight.

But pilot Anatoly K. Vochur managed to direct his aircraft away from the flightline crowded with spectators and aircraft, and eject from the plane at the last possible second.

He survived the crash, which officials believe was caused by a bird or stone cutting the air intake and stalling one of the aircraft's engines.

The loss of the \$20 million MiG-29 did not dampen the spirits of the Soviet delegation, which

presented 13 craft, including the world's largest transporter plane — the giant, six-engine Antonov-225 carrying the Buran space shuttle on its broad back.

The Soviets' pale-blue Sukhoi-25 jet, with its spectacular steep climb and tailspin manoeuvre dubbed the Cobra, had hardened experts and tens of thousands of visitors gasping in admiration. It was the first time the Sukhoi-25 or the Sukhoi-27 model have been seen in the West.

Displays by other combat aircraft, including the needle-nosed F-18 from the United States, the vertical-takeoff Harrier from Britain and squadrons of thudding Foma and Panther helicopters from host country France were highlights of weekend displays.

Although the air show recorded 103,768 entrances this year, an estimated 20 per cent increase in public enthusiasm over the record set in 1987, the show's principal aim is to sell aircraft.

Budget seen paving way for reforms

DAR ES SALAAM, June 20, (Reuters): Tanzania on Thursday unveils a budget for the year starting July 1 which diplomats expect will introduce more economic reforms and trim back on deficit spending.

They also expect Finance Minister Cleopa Msuya to announce a further devaluation of the Tanzanian shilling in response to pressure from lenders and donors.

"These issues are crucial if Tanzania has to play ball with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," one Western diplomat said.

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi met IMF officials in May and promised to carry on with economic reforms begun in 1986 to ensure economic growth and continued backing from donors.

Since coming to power in 1985, Mwinyi has liberalised Tanzania's system of trade and raised producer prices for coffee and cotton, the main exports. Prior to that, the country had pursued rigid socialism.

An IMF accord is the linchpin of Tanzania's economic recovery programme because it underwrites annual aid of up to \$800 million and the rescheduling of this East African country's \$5 billion external debt.

Tanzania has not yet reached an agreement for a new loan to replace the third tranche of the current IMF structural adjustment facility, worth 68 million Special Drawing Rights (\$89 million), which ends this month. But the diplomats said the government must bite the bullet in Thursday's budget speech.

In 1987-88, the deficit was 28.5 million shillings (\$291 million) at the then prevailing exchange rate.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 20/06/1989			
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
8	Sham	ISA	2441860
9	Radauti	Al Sawan	4746018
12	Condock No.1	Behbehani	2412085
14	Probo Baro	Algh. Barwil	4843988
15	Sea Diamond	GH&Q	4347815
17	Tropical Sun	ISA	2441860
18	Pan Riser	GH&Q	4347815
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
19/6	Norasia Arabia	Emad Shpg	4841807
19/6	Fal Staff	GH&Q	4347815
19/6	General K. Orbay	Al Sawan	4746018
19/6	Gate Way AC	M. Bahar	2433881
19/6	Dauzu Maru	Algh. Barwil	4843988
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Glory Sky	ISA	2441860
6	Handy Commander	Algh. Barwil	4843988
7	Western Trias	Algh. Barwil	4843988
9	Anafi	Algh. Barwil	4843988
10	Volosko	M. Bahar	2433881
12	Golden Polydinamos	A. Seas	2421303
14	Sea Coral	Algh. Barwil	4843988
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
3/6	Ascona	Algh. Barwil	4843988
18/6	Kashima	ISA	2441860
18/6	Barzan	UASC	4843150
19/6	Malak	Rogger	2423642
20/6	Y.S. Prosperity	Algh. Barwil	2422026

VIDEO CORNER

Tom's funnier as the mysterious alibi

THE last few weeks have seen so many acclaimed box office releases that it's difficult enough to find time to watch them all, never mind review them.

Tom Selleck's first comedy role was in last year's *Three Men And A Cradle*, which was an international success. His second comedy role in *Her Alibi* did not do quite so well at the box office, but in my view is much funnier. Selleck plays a mystery writer suffering from writer's block since his wife dumped him four years previously.

A guy who created all the action in his life through his writing, he hasn't been in a fight since the age of six or had an affair with a woman since his wife left. Desperate for a successful storyline, he roams the courthouses until he finds a beautiful Romanian girl (international model Paulina Portzkova) on trial for murder. He plots with his manager to give her an alibi by saying he was having an affair with her. Threatened by the Romanian secret police, she is all too willing to go along with the story and move in to his rambling country mansion.

The storyline is a combination of fear and lust, with sexual tension in between. All played for nervous laughter. Selleck is totally infatuated with a young woman who may want to kill him. He has to face reality and take action, something he has not done before in his life, even though he claims to have modelled the suave sleuth in his novels on himself.

The sitcom aspect of the film generates some of the funniest moments I have seen for quite some time, and the dialogue has some superb repartee — "You fell in love with a murderer," accuses his family. "It's tough meeting nice girls these days," he mumbles. Selleck's grouchy charm, and Portzkova's attractiveness add to the charm of the film, leaving us with a well above average, elegant but lightweight comedy.

Bette Midler stars with Barbara Hershey in a huge recent American box office hit called *Beaches*. Midler plays a sleazy concert artist who finally hits the big time as a pop singer, and Barbara Hershey is rich, bored heiress with lots of money and no friends. They meet as young girls under the boardwalk when Hershey is lost her way to the hotel and an unlikely relationship develops over the years as each goes her different way — Hershey to become a lawyer, and Midler as a pop singer. Various situations in their married and professional lives push them into good times, bad times, and times when best friends grow apart and grow together again. There are echoes of *Rich and Famous*, as both learn to cope the queen of sleaze routine, but her role is redeemed by some good songs, one of which is at present No. 1 in the charts. Well received by critics and filmgoers alike, this film makes a welcome change which I failed to see. Whereas other reviewers mention "controlled," "tear jerking," "refreshingly entertaining" etc, this reviewer tended to find it contrived and even embarrassing at times.

The merger of skateboarding with a crime thriller sounds like something to avoid totally, but in fact *Gleaming the Cube* is one of the best teenage films of late. This surprisingly well-made drama was an instant hit with young audiences, and brings some good insights into the subcultures of American teenagers. Brian Kelly sneers cynically at everything until his Vietnamese halfbrother Vinh hangs himself in a motel room. Convinced that his smart, responsible and respectful brother would never have taken his own life, he starts a danger filled investigation.

The stunt scenes are thrilling and actually work as part of the story. They also give us an idea about how far bored kids will go to shake themselves out of their complacency. Brian realises he must leave his spiked hair and earrings behind if he is going to solve his brother's

murder, as without a decent appearance he won't get respect from the adults whose help he needs. To the amusement of his friends, he cuts his hair and rides a bicycle.

Walt Disney no longer has the monopoly on cartoon features as the success of *An American Tail* showed last year. Now *Land Before Time*, a Universal release, has beaten Disney's *Oliver and Company* by a significant margin at the box office. However the difference between a Disney feature and the recent *Don Bluth* creations is that the former tries to please an audience of all ages, whereas *Land Before Time* is unlikely to have many fans aged over ten.

While en route to the Great Valley, which has abundant edible plant life, five juvenile dinosaurs are cut off from the



Haircut for Tom Selleck from the mysterious Nina (Paulina Portzkova).

parental herds by a cataclysmic earthquake. Littlefoot, a brontosaurus, must get them where they're going. Petrie, a pterodactyl, still hasn't learnt how to fly. Cera, a triceratops, does not want to co-operate with the others. Ducky, a cheerful ankylosaurus is enthusiastic and goofy. They must all overcome their personal shortcomings in order to reunite safely with their parents and avoid the dinosaur eating Tyrannosaurus Rex. Kids will relate to the themes of parental loss, emerging self-sufficiency and bigger things wanting to eat you. Parents will have to content themselves with some great looking artwork and the dippy comic persona of Ducky, who steals the movie.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fimex/Farwanja, Video Naut, Salmiya, Tel. 2432809 and Video Club, Salmiya, Tel. 5724372.



Marshall (left) Bette Midler (centre) and Barbara Hershey on the set of *Beaches*.

Winner gets the money, loser leaves town

By Gall Seery

THE best film I've seen for a long time is set in the luxurious French Riviera, at the resort town of Beaufort-sur-Mer. High on the cliff overlooking the sapphire blue Mediterranean sea is a beautiful villa belonging to Lawrence Jameson, who understands the meaning of taste and style. He lives in modest luxury with an apparently limitless income to support him.

Freddie Benson is an American traveller, new in town, who has an inexhaustible taste for money and the good things it buys, and a perpetually ailing grandmother. The film is called *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, starring Michael Caine in his best role to date as Jameson, and the brilliant Steve Martin as Benson.

Steve Martin can be funny just walking along the street, and has a manic brilliance which makes him easily one of the funniest comedians around. His character, Benson, has modest aims — he only wants to con the odd bit of cash, the odd meal, or at a stretch, a Ferrari here and there, out of gullible women, but he quickly learns that in Jameson he has met his match.

Jameson is a confidence trickster who considers \$50,000 to be an easy con, child's play, and merely something to contribute towards the household expenses. He spots Benson a mile away, and quickly gets him flown back to America, under



A scene from 'Gleaming the Cube'

the guise of helping him to escape from Interpol. Unfortunately a former victim of his, still very taken in by the story, sees them together and tells Benson what a wonderful man his friend the prince is, and the younger man promptly returns to Beaufort-sur-Mer to exploit the situation.

Although Jameson's associates tell him not to take notice of Benson — after all they operate in such very different leagues — he is concerned; "A poacher who shoots at

rabbits may scare big game away."

The same point has not escaped Benson either. "A guy with a big mouth could ruin a lot of business," he warns. "I don't want money — I want you to teach me."

This leads into a totally brilliant section, where we see the con men's equivalent of the dance teaching interlude in *Dirty Dancin'*, with Martin showing a brilliance that never quite manages to upstage Caine's Jameson. It's an actor

of rare talent which can hold his own against someone like Steve Martin, and my estimation of Caine has risen considerably after seeing this film.

Not surprisingly, the magic of the relationship pales very quickly and they agree on a solution — they will have a race to see who can take a certain amount of money from an agreed woman first; the winner will get the money, and the loser will have to leave town.

I don't believe that any film which is just a vehicle created for one man's talents to shine is especially worthwhile. In *Roxanne*, Steve Martin totally dominated the movie, and the Cyrano de Bergerac story line

held no surprises. Darryl Hannah didn't have to put up outstanding acting to play along side him, she just had to be herself to be believable.

For me, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is a much stronger film, on a par with classics like *The Sting* for the complexities of its plot. Whoever played these roles would still find themselves in an enjoyable film, but with actors of this calibre in the leading roles, it outshines all but the very best. Director Frank Oz has done an excellent job with an already entertaining story, and deserves applause for the finished result. For once I can wholeheartedly recommend that you see this film.

Hotter than July

"HOTTER than July" is the title of the next Afro-Arab Friendship Group concert. It will be held on July 7 at Messilah Beach Hotel.

The show will feature different bands who will perform a selection of music.

Top Ranks: pop and disco music; Earthquake: rock music and their own compositions of Arabic music done to Western rock beat; Manila Boys: ballads and country and western music on their guitars; Zambezi: American Soul, rhythm and blues as well as the back-up band for Steve Michael.

Steve, known as the Bob

Marley of Kuwait, will once again be doing his own compositions as well as Reggae music of Marley and other Jamaican artists.

The group presents a Filipino singer, Louie Villeveau, who has previously performed at local hotels. Louie will do some Madonna songs, solo as well as back singing with others.

Tickets for the show are KDS and are now on sale.

"Hotter than July" concert is being arranged and presented by Phil Danielle.

(For reservations see What's on column)

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Tareq Rajab Museum
Sat - Thurs: 9 - 12 noon and 4 - 7 pm. Also open on Fridays from 9 to 12 noon.

SOCIAL

"Hotter Than July"

July 7 (Friday): A pop, rock, country and reggae music festival to be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel Ballroom from 7 to 10 pm. The groups to be featured are Top Ranks, Earthquake, Zambezi, Manila Boys, Louie Villeveau, Daniel Sisters and special guest appearance by Steve Michael. Tickets priced at KDS5, are available at: Messilah Beach Hotel — Tel. 5624111 Ext. 721/729; Art Corner, Nagra: 2665068/2659820; Swan Lake Recording, Salmiya: 5721030; No. 1 Records, Sultan Center — 5719620 Ext. 46.

Special offer for office and home delivery of tickets please call 2669963, 3928504 and 5639689.

Musical instruments will be given as gifts on entrance tickets.

Red and Black Nite

JULY 11: The Weekend Club will host the Red & Black Nite at the Sheikha Ballroom of the Regency Palace with Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers and Stepping Stones in attendance. Dress is informal but red and black combinations. Highlights include selection of the Red and Black Couple, most original costume and a live contest. Gala buffet dinner is included. For reservations contact Hilary: 5741380 Julio: 5734513 and Mercedes: 4890566.

D'Assisi Social Evening

AUG 1: D'Assisi Association will hold their social evening at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The highlights of the evening will be the crowning of D'Assisi Queen. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will provide the music. For more information contact Joe Jack Ferns on 5644178, Henry 3717346 or contact A.M. Fine Armst, Shop No. 34, Al Karak Super Market, near GPO, Kuwait.

United Goans

AUG 3: Summerbelle '89 is about to happen. United Goans Centre present "Top Ranks and Stepping Stones" in a music-saturated evening at the Tent SAS Hotel. Crowning of Summerbelle, various competitions, etc. to keep you on your toes. For details contact: Moses 2454266, Joe 5655140 Anicet 2439249 after 6 pm.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait International

Children's Party: Every Friday from June 23 up to July 7. Kermat, Donald Duck, Fozzie Bear, many other playmates, a huge Kiddie Castle, games, puppet shows and video fun promise to make it an entertaining day for the children. From 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm. KDS for adults and KDS for children under 12 years. Tickets on sale at reception: 2530000/8039.

La Palma: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Ext 8166.

Garden Pool: Relax by the pool and enjoy our Mongolian and American Barbecue on alternate Fridays. Ext 8052.

At the Messilah Beach

AT Mubarakia, the only 24-hour restaurant in Kuwait, offers a full spectrum of local and Continental specialties with daily buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner plus a la carte menu.

Al Jawharah super night club, live entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band with extensive a la carte menu on Wednesdays and special buffet on Thursdays.

Al Berdowneh beach garden restaurant open, Sunday to Friday offering a variety of succulent charcoal grills, Lebanese mezza, freshly baked markouk bread and hubble bubble.

At the Holiday Inn

AT The Coffee Shop: A variety of continental oriental cuisine to suit everyone's taste for lunch or dinner.

Al Andalus: Thursday — Arabian night. Savour the exotic food especially prepared for this night. Our local entertainers provide music.

Family brunch — a whole day for the family. Entertainment includes Walt Disney cartoon characters plus performance from the great magician. Let your kids enjoy every minute of the day. Delicious mouth watering food in a variety of deserts.

At the Swimming Pool: It's a great night out by the pool, starting at 8:00 p.m.

Barbecue — Music — Games prizes and surprises awaits each one. Bring your family in friends in savour our delicious Sharaza Barbecue.

At the Ramada Hotel

EL BENDAR coffee shop at the Ramada Hotel offers continental and Arabic buffets daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 12 mid night daily, a la carte also available. A selection of home baked cakes, gateaux and tarts made to order.

Marina take away counter offering a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks open from 4 pm till 11 pm daily.

Ramada Al Salam lobby lounge open 10 am to 11 pm on Sundays offering a selection of coffee, tea and juice, cakes and pastries available.

At the Continental

THE Gardenia, at the Kuwait Continental hotel open from 7 am to midnight, offers dinner buffet on Thursdays. The buffet features grilled specialties. The Friday lunch features Indian, Arabic and continental cuisine. The Dardar offers an Indian buffet lunch daily except Fridays and a la carte for dinner.

SPORTS

Keep fit classes

Aquafitness, judo, karate, taekwondo, and keep fit classes at the Kuwait International. Separate classes for ladies and men as well as mixed sessions. Bowling tournament during August. Barbecue lunch every Friday afternoon by the Garden Pool. Tennis and swimming coaching also. Details with the Recreation Manager, Paul Woodland at 2530000/8050.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.30 Iftah Ya Simsim: Children's programme
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
- 10.15 Hafat Al Hawiya: Arabic serial (Part 2)
- 11.00 Sabah Al Khir News and Variety
- 11.15 Al Nisr Wa Ayoun Al Madina: Arabic serial (Part 4)
- 12.30 Variety Programme
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World News via Satellite
- 1.30 Flouma: Cartoon serial
- 2.00 Variety
- 2.15 Imra'a La Taarf Al Ya's: Arabic serial (Part 2)
- 3.00 Masooat Al Sona Al Nabawiya: Religious programme
- 3.30 Cartoon serial
- 4.00 Football Match: Poland vs. Bulgaria (World Cup 1974)
- 6.00 Lila Min Alif Lila: Children's Programme
- 7.00 Ma'a Al Talaba
- 8.00 Variety
- 8.30 Lawhat Shabiya: Local Programme
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.00 Illi Ma'a Qurs: Daily Arabic serial (Part 12)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Istiqal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Andalus Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rasmithiya
Al Fida Pharmacy
Al Khansa St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Ahmadi, Ahmadi market
Kheitan
Al Tawfeeq Pharmacy
South St.
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
Fourth Area, Plot 48

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.13 am
Zuhr	11.50 am
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.50 pm
Isha	8.23 pm



A scene from Just for the Record on KTV 2 at 10 pm today.

- 10.45 Mahakim Billa Sojoon: Beduin serial (Part 3)
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Raccoons: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Mac and Mutley: more stories of adventurous dogs; shepherds that take part in competitions and a mobile service for dog welfare. Also a look at parrots.
- 7.00 Danger Bay: "Pets and Peeves." An "Adopt a Pet" programme brings hordes of people to the aquarium.
- 7.30 Body Matters: "Family Fortunes." Tonight's episode examines genes, and what they say about a child's future.
- 8.00 News in English.

- 8.40 You and the Law: presented by Ali Noor
- 8.50 Sonny Spoon: "Cheap rescues a black boy, hit by his car, and takes him to hospital; later he learns that the boy was involved in drug smuggling. Action.

- 9.40 A Different World: start of new series.
- 10.00 Just for the Record: tonight's episode captures the achievements of adventurers around the globe.
- 10.30 Late Night Movie: "Death by Law". Tony Maseri, Simon Oakland, Susan Strassbourg. A police thriller, it revolves around one man's quest to bring a policeman's killers to justice. Action.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Halloween IV
Al Salmiya
Moving
Al Hamra
Cobra Mission II
Drive-In
Arabic Film
Al Firdous
Mera Shikar
Starring, Kabir Bedi, Dimple Kapadia

Fahsheel Open Air
Bascera
Al Fahsheel
Arabic Film
Al Jahra
Booby Trap
Granada
Arabic film
Sulabikhat
Janmanthram
Al Jeeb
All of Me
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

By Kathy Cuddihy

LABELS, in one form or another, have been around for a long time. At a guess, I'd say they started soon after human speech evolved. The system probably got off to a slow start because initially there just wasn't a whole lot of speech floating around, but it can't have taken too long before the need arose to verbally distinguish one caveman from the other.

"Labels" were ideal for describing the tasks people did, the qualities people had (or didn't have) and, as mobility increased, the places from which they came. What a breakthrough they must have been. Can you imagine how much duller history books would be if everyone were called "(grunts)" or "psst" or "(wolf whistle)"? Aren't "Running Bear," "Eric the Red" and "Attila the Hun" a whole lot more fun?

With the emergence of the written word, labels really came into their own. Now they're produced in every size, shape and form and convey every conceivable type of information.

The labels with which most of us come in frequent contact are those on everyday packaging. Much to my husband's dismay, they seem to hold a particular fascination for me. I spend almost as much time reading the packages as I do using the products.

"Kathy, why on earth can't you simply throw the groceries into the cart like

Able labels

everyone else does? Why do you always have to read labels?" asks my perplexed spouse.

"It's probably due to my 'market research' gene. I have to make comparisons on contents, promotions and directions so I know which item suits our needs best."

"The theory's good, Kathy, but how many times do you have to read each product? Surely if something like Cavity Cornflakes fails to pass muster once, it'll fail every other time as well."

"True... in theory, but you know how everything is always 'new' and 'improved' these days. I like to keep on top of the situation."

Fortunately the man doesn't come clothes shopping with me, because I make a point of reading those labels, too. Of course, this takes only a few seconds of scanning. Unfortunately, the more interesting labels have a proportionately higher price tag. The Koreans probably have the best idea: they make stunning copies of clothes and then let you choose whichever label you like — anything from Cruddy Couturier to Devastating Dior — without affecting the price. Nevertheless, out of consideration for my good husband — and as insurance that I make the

purchases of my choice — I seldom include him in these outings.

The least popular type of label surely has to be the sew-on variety. You know, the ones required by boarding schools and summer camps. Sew-on projects don't seem particularly daunting... until you realise how extensive the wardrobe requirements are at these places. Iron-on name labels do exist, but they tend to come off in the wash eventually. At least with the sew-ons, I can recycle them. That's not much comfort from a labour point of view, but with school/camp fees rising steadily, it's an economic consideration... I tell myself in consolation for all those stitches.

In this part of the world I'm evidently not the only person who appreciates labels. Just take a look at all the cars with their glaring imports stickers still stuck on the windows. Now that's dedication.

No less enthusiastic are the people who don't bother to remove manufacturers' labels from things such as the corners of television and light switches. In the latter case, they're usually reminders to electricians to leave instruction books with the user. Practical, perhaps, but not exactly an aesthetic addition to the general decor.

Luggage labels come in two categories: those put on by the passenger and those put on by the airline. As a frequent passenger, I am regularly faced with filling out address labels. With equal regularity, these mysteriously lose themselves at some point between checking in at one destination and checking in at another, necessitating a frantic last-minute scribble as the bags are being loaded onto the conveyor belt.

Conversely, the destination labels affixed by the airline usually stay attached, particularly when they mis-tag the luggage for a city/country far distant from the one on my itinerary.

Sometimes, though, airlines really outdo themselves. My favourite labels — luggage or otherwise — are the large, circular ones which announce VIB boldly in Arabic and English.

"What's this?" I enquired sceptically as the handler attached one to my suitcase. "I've heard of 'VIP', but never 'VIB'. Is it a new system to make sure my suitcase arrives when... and where... I do?"

"No Madam," the official beamed, "this is a special for you. It lets everyone know you are a VIB, a Very Important Berson."

I like that. It has a nice ring to it. It certainly got the luggage where it was going and I arrived feeling a whole lot more tolerant of air travel. You've come a long way, labels.

Advice from a down-to-earth astrologer

Bring a twinkle into your love-life

Astrologers say that some romances are made in heaven... and others are signs of trouble. But now a top UK astrologer Carole Golder says that, with a little study, all the people of the zodiac can bring a twinkle into your love-life.

By Ktima Heathcote

THE secrets of love and lust are all in the stars. Never mind a passion which makes the earth move, just gaze up to the movements of more heavenly bodies.

For, according to astrologer Carole Golder, the planets can help us have a happier, and a longer, love-life.

Headstrong Carole is tough, fiery, aggressive and impulsive — a typical Aries. Her star-struck lover, who she wishes to remain nameless, is a Scorpio — passionate, possessive, loyal and intense with a magnetic personality.

It is one of the most explosive mixtures in the zodiac. And, together, they spell passion with a capital "P". But, according to some astrologers, the relationship is doomed because both signs are dogged by jealousy.

However, Carole, an eternal optimist, claims that you can have the perfect relationship with the star sign of your choice. And she explains how to use astrology to make the best of all our relationships in her new book *Love Lives*.

Carole, in her mid-thirties, explains: "Some astrologers tell readers to avoid certain signs, saying this one can't get on with that one. I don't believe this is necessarily so."

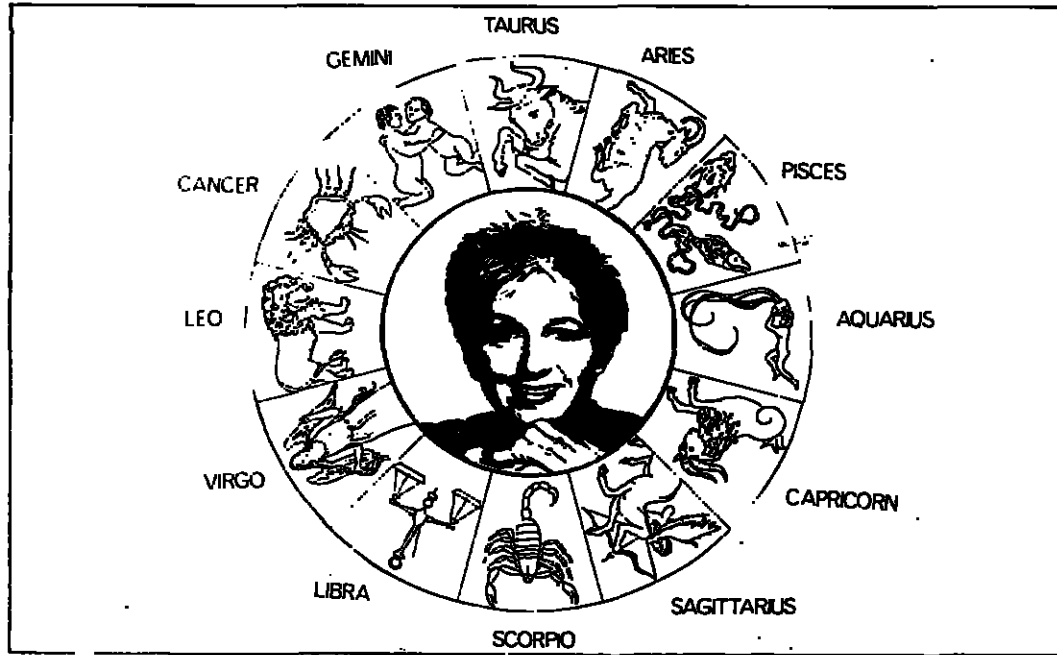
"I want people to realise that by becoming more knowledgeable about your partner's weaknesses, positive and negative characteristics you can build and maintain the perfect relationship, regardless of your sign and theirs."

Carole, an assistant for the astrologer Patric Walker during her early twenties, has many tips on the high spots and danger zones of each sign. She says: "People should learn how to recognise the danger points in their relationships and discover how to overcome them."

"So, by using our star sign characteristics — and those of our partners — we can make our romantic dreams come true."

For instance, a Cancer man will be tender, loving and should bring a little moon madness into his partner's life. But never ridicule him or criticise his family, especially his mother.

The Capricorn woman will be the wisest lady you have ever known. She can combine a successful career with a successful home life and will be totally dedicated to the people she loves. But watch out, if you let her



Astrologer and authoress Carole Golder inside an astro chart

down by breaking a promise, accuse her of flirting with another man or criticise her dress sense.

As an Aries woman, Carole should bring her beloved drinks in the bath, will laugh when her friends feel down and will make romance more adventurous than her partner has ever known.

But her Scorpio man should never make passes at another woman, because she will probably walk out. And he better beware if he keeps her waiting too long or has a slanging match because she will probably win.

Carole does stress, however, that her advice is only general. She explains: "I am a typical Aries, but I must admit I have never brought my friend drinks in the bath."

Just like, there must be some Taurus women who are spen-riffs, even though Carole said they would never let their partner's bank balance go too far into the red.

She says: "Many people share characteristics of different signs and some are more like their star signs than others. You have to generalise with a book like this, though many of my friends and family have remarked on how accurate I am."

"What I have written is meant to be taken seriously, but I didn't set out to write a scientific tome on astrology. I wanted to keep it chatty and informal."

Carole, who lives alone in a plush apartment in London's posh Chelsea, keeps tight-lipped about her private life. But then she is an Aries who tend not to bare all and are slightly suspicious of strangers.

Once an Aries relaxes, though, they begin to open up. Carole explains: "I've painted a very black picture of my sign, but we don't just have negative characteristics. Deep down, we are not as self-confident and independent as we appear. We are also quite innocent and vulnerable and are a real child at heart."

As an impulsive Arien, Carole often rushes into things. Like

during her twenties, Carole had reached the height of her career as a personal agent for actors when she decided to take up astrology. But her intuition was right and, since then, has never looked back.

She recalls: "I was told that I had psychic powers and encouraged to go to medium classes, which I did. At the same time I became interested in astrology and worked with Patric Walker for about a year, which was very useful."

She recalls: "I was told that I had psychic powers and encouraged to go to medium classes, which I did. At the same time I became interested in astrology and worked with Patric Walker for about a year, which was very useful."

Carole's love of challenges and zest for life — other typical traits of her sign — shows in her busy working schedule. She begins her day with a herbal tea at 8 am, often working right through until 6 or 7 pm.

Carole gives tarot card reading for many clients and writes regular horoscopes for British and international publications. She has also made several appearances on radio and television.

Love Lives is a sequel to her first book *The Seductive Art of Astrology* which offers advice on how to hunt for — and capture — that elusive dream lover. Her latest guide goes one step further — telling readers how to recognise their ideal mate and, most important, how to keep them.

Readers can also learn the truth about themselves and everyone else, too. Very handy if you want to discover why your Leo lover adores the limelight, why your Virgo boss is so critical, or why your Pisces friend is a born romantic.

She explains: "Once you've learned more about yourself and others you will realise why you have such a perfect communication with some members of your family yet end up at cross purposes with others."

"You will understand how certain working relationships are perfect on one level but frustrating on another."

"With all this knowledge at your fingertips you will be in a much better position to build, maintain and perfect every relationship in your life."

But is there such a thing as the perfect relationship? Before writing *Love Lives*, Carole was asked this many times and, even now, she still hesitates with the answer.

"Perfect relationships can mean so many different things to people. But I think everyone can survive towards one and some people achieve it. You have to work at it, though, which so many of us fail to do."

"No matter how many successful dating agencies put you in touch with the so-called perfect partner, compatible in every possible way, you still have to work at it yourself."

Carole illustrates her point with a story she heard about a mother with 13 children. She says that the woman constantly replenished her huge stock of romantic novels, so she could dream about love and romance with the perfect partner.

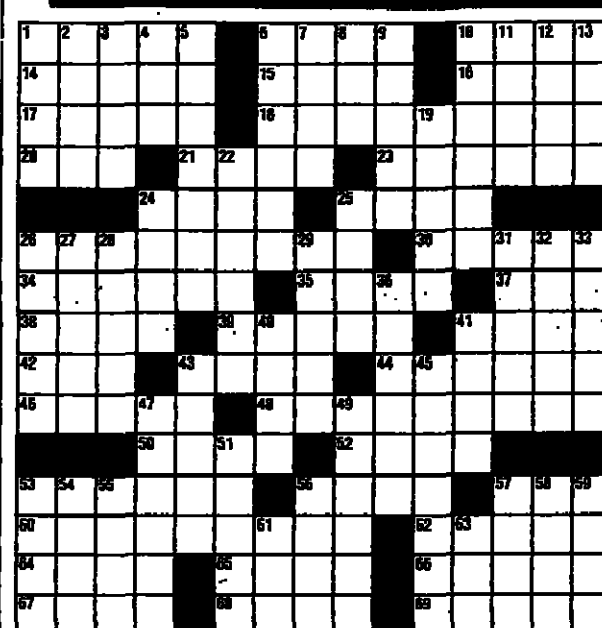
"When it was pointed out to this woman that since she had 13 children, surely she should know all about love, she replied 'Oh, is that love?'"

"I find that so sad. I don't believe that sort of experience needs to be part of other people's lives. But I do believe you must apply a positive attitude to all your relationships to achieve the very best for yourself and the other people around you."

"Understanding yourself and your partner even better will prove that astral compatibility is not something dreamed up by an idealistic astrologer. A good relationship with any sign can and will happen, if you put your mind to it."

★ *Love Lives* by Carole Golder. Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Limited.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Public spirited
 - Dingle
 - Show amazement
 - Tatum
 - Auberjonois
 - Fencing weapon
 - Spry
 - Verbal abuse
 - Actor Carrou
 - Let
 - Mended socks
 - Martin Luther
 - Being: Lat.
 - Smoke
 - Island in New York harbor
 - Pass
 - Leader
 - Individual
 - Role for Leslie Caron
 - Hobo's transport
 - Napoleon victory site
 - Han Mingak, S. Korea
 - A — apple
 - Baker's need
 - Dispur is its capital
 - Recall the past
 - Newhart and Hope
 - South American parrots
 - Capital of
- DOWN**
- Turkey
 - Summer coolers
 - Spanish article
 - Questioned
 - Nary a body
 - Words of understanding
 - Fatigue
 - Cove
 - Courageous act
 - Arabian chieftain
 - Cheers, e.g.
 - Anthracite
 - "Picnic" playwright
 - Streak in marble
 - Adjective suffix
 - Persons of the cloth
 - The Ugly American, in Mexico
 - Pre-Easter time
 - Stationery
 - Facial feature
 - Abbr.
 - Necessities
 - Long-winged seabird
 - Neat as —
 - Granular snow
 - Word with up or off
 - Looked over the joint
 - 22 Comes in
 - 24 Military hat
 - 25 Donkey, in Berlin
 - 26 Fraternity letter
 - 27 Inventor Howe
 - 28 — of the Vienna Woods
 - 29 The Lorelei's river
 - 31 Plunders
 - 32 Of the Asian subcontinent
 - 33 River past Notre Dame
 - 36 Aim
 - 40 Broadcasts
 - 41 Hawaiian symbols
 - 43 Love, Italian style
 - 45 Miffed
 - 47 Subsidised
 - 49 A strong red shade
 - 51 Sewing or cooking term
 - 53 — rain
 - 54 Facial feature
 - 55 Joist with a cap
 - 56 Air Comb. form
 - 57 "Damn Yankees" vamp
 - 58 Bills
 - 59 Paving stone
 - 61 Tidy —
 - 63 Yoko

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
PASS IS A PRECIOUS WORD

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 6 5 4
♥ A Q
♦ Void
♣ A K Q 4 3 2

WEST
♠ Void
♥ J 10 8 7 4 2
♦ K Q 9 6 2
♣ 9 5

EAST
♠ K 10 9 7
♥ 9 3
♦ J 10 7
♣ J 10 7 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ K 6 5
♦ A 8 5 4 3
♣ 8

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass Pass 3♥ 4♥
Pass 5NT Pass 6♥
Pass 6♠ Pass Pass
Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦
In 1981, Bobby Levin, now living in Chicago, became, at 23, the youngest player ever to win a World Team Championship. Almost eight years later, he is still collecting major titles. At the recent Fall National Championships in Nashville, he and his partner captured the Life Master Men's Pairs, and this hand contributed to the victory.

North's cue-bid of four hearts showed a powerful two-suited hand, and Levin's five no trump asked his partner to choose the suit. North elected to cue-bid six hearts

in search of a grand slam but South, with what seemed to be a useless king of hearts, ventured no further than six spades.

East's greedy double turned what might have been a shaky contract into a simple single-dummy problem by presenting declarer with a blueprint of the distribution. The diamond opening lead was ruffed in dummy and a low spade was led. Since going up with the king was tantamount to surrender, East played low and declarer's queen won. Another diamond ruff provided the entry to the table to cash three top clubs, followed by a club ruff in the closed hand.

Levin cashed the ace of hearts, overtook the queen with the king and played off the ace of diamonds to bring his trick total to 10. Left on the board were the A J of trumps and a club, while East was down to nothing but trumps. Declarer administered the *coup de grace* by leading the diamond and discarding dummy's club. East was forced to ruff and lead a trump away from his king into declarer's tenace. As a result, the defenders collected only one trump trick!



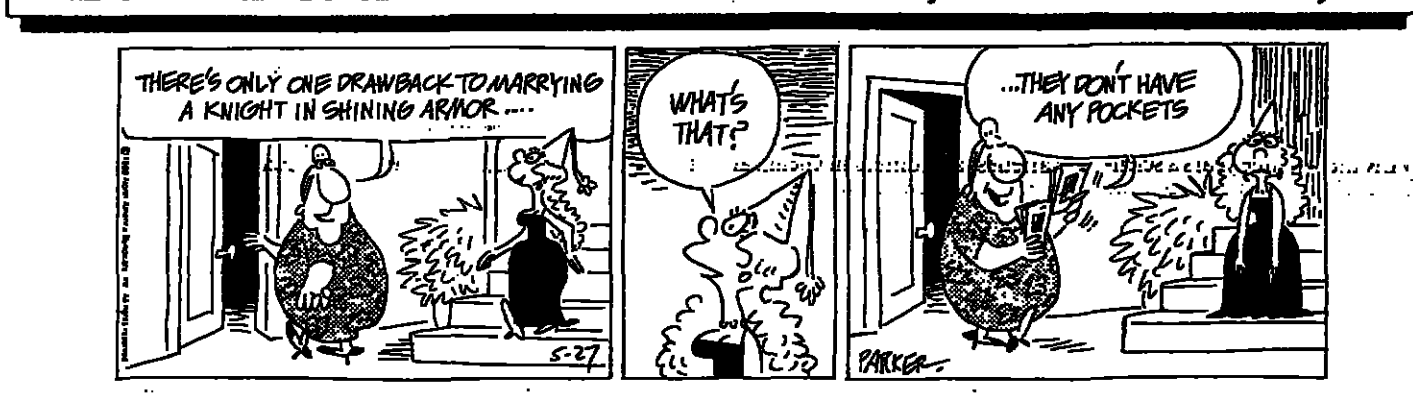
"We've been saving up 23 weeks for this!"



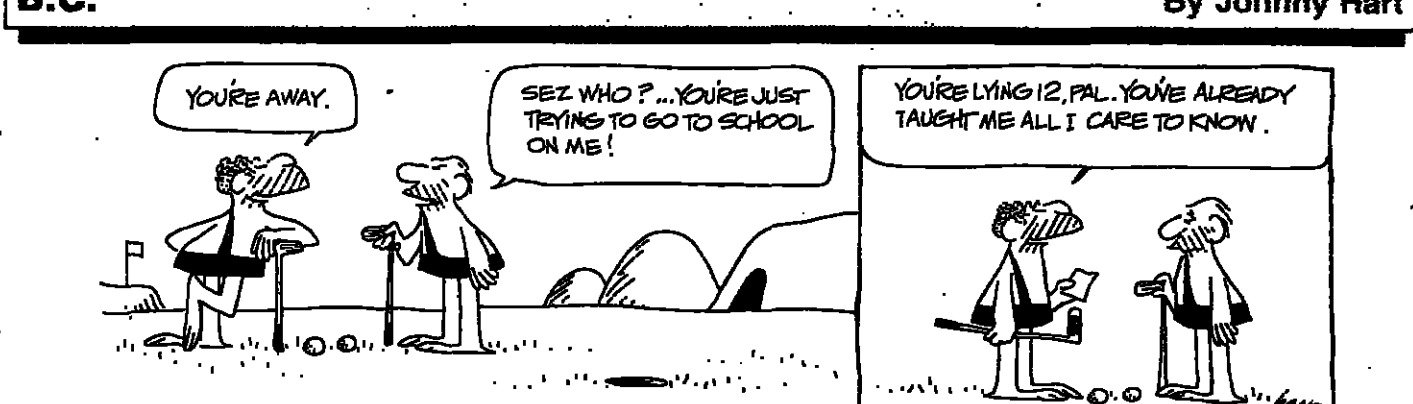
"My daughter tells me you're in the army. Not ours, I trust!"

THE WIZARD OF ID





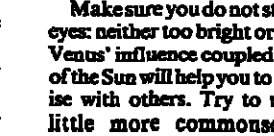
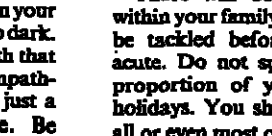
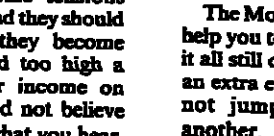




By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

 Aries (March 20 - April 18) The Moon's less favourable influence will tend to render you rather listless. Avoid doing anything on the spur of the moment, but do not dither. Do your best not to lose your temper. Be sincere.	 Cancer (June 21 - July 21) Make sure you do not strain your eyes: neither too bright or too dark. Venus' influence coupled with that of the Sun will help you to sympathise with others. Try to use just a little more commonsense. Be moderate.	 Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22) There will be some tensions within your family and they should be tackled before they become acute. Do not spend too high a proportion of your income on holidays. You should not believe all or even most of what you hear. Be prompt.	 Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) The Moon's better influence will help you to concentrate. However, it all still depends on your making an extra effort. Make sure you do not jump from one thing to another, but do not linger on trivialities. Be reliable.
 Taurus (April 19 - May 19) Do not do anything which you do not think is quite right. Keep calm when dealing with a rather difficult person. The Sun's influence coupled with that of Venus will tend to make you feel rather vulnerable. Be less extravagant.	 Leo (July 22 - Aug 21) Do not allow others to dictate to you. You would be wrong to rely on luck to get you out of trouble. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 50. You should use charm and persuasion rather than trying to do things by force. Be cordial.	 Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21) You will not have time to do all you would like to do and must get your priorities right. And do not think all work and no play is the right method. A temptation to spend recklessly must be resisted. Be tactful.	 Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18) The better influence of Mercury and Jupiter will help to confront an important matter which should not be delayed. Try to avoid being pedantic or verbose. You will have quite a lot to be pleased but nothing to be complacent about. Be generous.
 Gemini (May 20 - June 20) Mars' better influence will help you to say the right thing at the right time. And Mercury's influence will help you to see things more clearly. Do not hesitate or else it may be too late. Be as good as your word.	 Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21) The Sun's better influence coupled with that of Venus will help you to get on with things. You will have to be a little more patient. If you expect others to do exactly what you would like, you are very wrong. Be brave.	 Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You will feel less listless, just as well with so much to do there is no time to waste. You would do well to take a little more time to energetic exercise. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be polite.	 Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19) There is no time to lose if you want to avail yourself of a good opportunity. Get on with something you do not like doing that has to be done. Make sure you do not judge by appearances alone. Be responsive.

Research shows psychological benefits of physical exertion

Exercise: for a healthier state of mind

By Barbara Lamb

HARDLY a day passes without the media extolling the latest exercise fad, from aerobics to callanetics, enticing us with the promise of a trimmer, tauter shape along with the advantages of staying healthy and living longer.

But while the physical benefits of regular exercise have been well documented — lower blood pressure, less body fat and a healthier heart — the positive effects of exercise on our mental state have had comparatively little evidence to back them up. For while you are burning up the calories and working off the flab you could also be helping to ward off depression.

According to Hannah Steinberg, a professor of psychopharmacology, consistent, sensible exercise could do as much for the mind as for the body. The answer may lie in our endorphins. It has been known for some time that the brain can manufacture endorphins (endogenous morphines), its own natural opiate-like substances, but their significance seems to have been overlooked.

Steinberg and her colleagues at University College London have recently carried out further scientific research which reveals that stimulating the body through exercise helps release the endorphins and can lift your mood, giving you feelings of well-being similar to those of helpful, psycho-active drugs. "If you optimize your physical behaviour you stand a very good chance of also optimizing your mental state," she says.

Effects Psychopharmacology is a comparatively new science, and is concerned with the effect of drugs which act on the brain. When Steinberg is overwhelmed by pressure of work, she moves energetically to music until the tension seems to ebb away. The exercise does not have to be vigorous to produce the desired effect, she emphasizes, and she warns against over-exertion.

A recent study by Steinberg's research group has convinced her that even the emotionally stable can withstand more stress if they exercise regularly.

The Steinberg research team carried out tests to explore the link between physical exercise, its psychological benefits and endorphins. Men and women were divided into three groups according to their aerobic fitness, and subjected to a laboratory stress test. The tests revealed that not only do the physically fit react to stress less strongly, but their heart rate goes more slowly and recovers more quickly. Men and women reacted differently: in men the changes were predominantly a physical, with blood pressure rising more dramatically in the unfit, whereas with unfit women it was anxiety that increased.

Steinberg was not surprised that there was a difference between the sexes. "It suggested that men were more protected from risk of physical illness such as heart disease when they exercise, whereas physically fit women are more able to cope with mental stress and therefore get more psychological benefit."

Improve That exercise can improve the mood of patients in psychiatric hospitals has also been established. Psychiatrist Dr Desmond Kelly, president of the International Stress Control Society and medical director of the Priory, a private psychiatric hospital in Roehampton, south-west London, believes very much in controlled exercise for mental health.

It has been an intrinsic part of the hospital regime for a number of years, in many cases allowing patients to cut down on drugs once they are past the acute phase. Exercise and swimming sessions have proved so successful in helping patients in their recovery that the hospital is now building a full-scale gymnasium, which will be completed this summer.

Dr David Veale, of the Maudsley Hospital, London, who has



also extensively researched the psychological benefits of exercise, is more cautious and does not believe it should be regarded as a panacea.

Last year he carried out his own study on exercise as a treatment for depression, and con-

cluded that aerobic exercise works as well as drug therapy, but only on mild to moderate cases. He talks of the temporary elevation in mood: "Many will testify that they feel less anxious immediately after exercise, but the long-term benefits are harder

to evaluate."

Steinberg's belief in the psychological effects of physical exercise was triggered a few years ago when her research assistant noticed that her depression lifted once she started to exercise regularly. "When it was first dis-

covered that the nervous system can produce substances which are similar to materials derived from opium poppies, it was hailed as a breakthrough," Steinberg says. "Since then an enormous amount of research has been carried out to find out more about the highly complex nature and functions of endorphins."

Pain relief is to some extent produced by the body itself. She cites the example of "battle wounds," which are supposed to leave you free of pain until the battle is over.

However, overenthusiastic exercising, Steinberg says, can lead to addiction and the danger of becoming equally depressed when deprived of the endorphins.

A six-week experiment with 40 runners showed that "runner's high," often criticized as a myth, is real. Steinberg and her team divided runners into two groups: the control group continued normal running and the other stopped all exercise over a two-week period.

Weekly assessments showed that more anxiety, depression and health problems. Once running was resumed withdrawal symptoms quickly disappeared. It was also noticed that the pain threshold seemed to rise after strenuous exercise.

Steinberg believes exercise is also useful in helping people come off addictive drugs, lessening withdrawal symptoms. "Clinics will put people on a complete detoxification programme, handing out substitute drugs which are a bit weaker." She thinks that exercise via endorphins could help replace these drugs and prevent relapse, one of the most common failures of detoxification.

At an international Sport Health psychology and exercise symposium held in Buckinghamshire last October, Nanette Mutrie of the University of Glasgow reported that she found mildly depressed women who exercised aerobically over two weeks recovered faster than those still awaiting treatment.



Test-tube babies for older women is now a possibility.

Beating the clock to motherhood

By Jenny Hope

A NEW test-tube baby treatment is bringing hope to women in their late 40s who thought their chance of having a family was over.

The treatment is being hailed as a "biological breakthrough" for women suffering years of infertility or who have simply felt it too late to get pregnant.

Already a woman of 48 has had twins after 25 years of trying to conceive and ten other women over 42 years old have succeeded in giving birth.

Dr Paul Serhal, clinical lecturer at University College Hospital, London, and Professor Ian Craft of the private Humana Hospital Wellington, London, have made the breakthrough, reported in the *Lancet* medical journal.

The treatment involves the transfer of eggs from a young donor to the patient.

Dr Serhal said the quality of the eggs is the vital factor involved in an extraordinary success rate. So far 61 women have been treated at the Humana and it is believed to be the largest such programme in the world.

Dr Serhal said: "Until now doctors assumed that the major problem with older women was the fact that eggs would not implant in an ageing womb."

"But of crucial importance is the eggs. When you transfer them from a younger woman to an older woman, the fertility potential is just the same for the recipient as the younger woman. This is a biological breakthrough."

New technology aids stones treatment

OVER the last nine years a scientific revolution has changed the diagnosis and treatment of urinary stones either in the kidneys, ureters and bladder due to the possibility of breaking down these gravels by the effect of shock waves based on different principles — electromagnetic, piezo electric, laser energy, and chemical blasting.

These different modalities of physical energy can be focused scientifically, to break down the stones in the human body without ill-effect on the other body tissues including the kidneys and the biliary tract in few selected cases.

In conjunction with the previous development endourological instruments have developed remarkably to high degrees of accuracy and refinement, using the laser beam energy, ultrasonic waves and electro-hydraulic shock waves.

A second technological revolution of great importance is the improvement in the first-generation lithotripters which are still in use in a lot of centres and require the patient to have a general anaesthesia and a water bath immersion for his shock wave treatment.

Thanks to the second and third generation lithotripters which can break down such stones without the necessity of anaesthesia or a water bath, the patient is able to complete his treatment in a short period of time amounting to a few hours only without pain or complications.

Urinary stones are of several

varieties, and differ in chemical composition and their resistance to dissolve. Most of the stones are either calcium oxalate, a mixture of magnesium ammonium phosphate, uric acid or cystine stones.

There is a higher incidence of stone formations in the Gulf countries as compared to Europe, North America or Australia.

Hot climates with increased humidity contributes to the crystallization of salts in the urine, along with an increased dietary protein intake, which has an important role in the formation of stone skeleton. Decreased intake of fluids and other genetic factors also add to the previous factors.

Stone diagnosis Stone diagnosis is the keystone on which a successful treatment is achieved. Diagnosis has developed remarkably and effectively over the last decade as a result of new technology. Nevertheless, clinical scientific experience for the urologist constitute the basic factors in diagnosis.

Laboratory work-up for urine analysis, as well as blood biochemistry are also important diagnostic parameters in assessing the kidney function, as well as stone constituents.

Radiology (X-rays) still occupies its traditional role in diagnosis of the stones. These range from normal X-rays for the urinary tract which shows up radio dense stones containing



The treatment and diagnosis of kidney and other stones in the body has undergone a scientific revolution in the last 9 years. Picture shows the author with one of the new machines used in dissolving kidney stones.

high percentage of calcium as well as giving additional information about the human skeleton and other associated problems. Ultrasonography, has no harmful effects and can be used briefly during pregnancy to show up the kidneys and radiolucent stones which can be missed easily on the usual traditional plain X-rays. They also have an important role, in showing roughly, a blockage, if any, in the kidneys as a result of these stones, as well as any associated biliary stones in the gall bladder or the draining types. They also are beneficial in showing other organs inside the tummy.

Coloured X-rays (IVU) are very useful X-ray facility to show the real anatomy of the urinary tracts, as well as stones and if there is any blockage or congenital abnormalities. They are crucial in most cases before the

shock wave therapy unless the patient is allergic to the dyes used. Computerized tomographic X-rays (CT) can be helpful on some of these cases to show any associated problems in the kidneys and also to follow-up complications which could arise in the future. Nuclear medicine studies can differentiate the kidney function on both sides and give an accurate percentage of each before treatment, especially in big blocking stones which diminish such functions progressively. Nuclear magnetic resonance (MR) is a useful gadget in such centres to monitor any kidney complications which could develop later on.

The diagnoses of stones and associated problems had developed remarkably over the last decade and have enabled the genito-urinary surgeon to reach an accurate diagnosis in such cases.

which ticks should be removed when found on the body. Although I know of many techniques, let me outline those used by health departments in regions where Lyme Disease strikes most frequently.

The safest method is to use a fine-tipped tweezer to grasp the tick's mouth parts, as close to the skin as possible. Pull back with a slow, gradual, but steady pressure, so that the tick will come loose with all parts intact. Then check the area of the bite carefully to be sure that nothing remains. Clean the tick bite with a good antiseptic solution. No dressing is necessary.

Another suggestion is to keep the dead tick taped to an index card, and make a note of the date of the bite on the card. If a round, reddish rash that grows outward develops or if you experience flu-like symptoms in the days that follow the bite incident, consult a doctor at once and bring the card with the tick along. Early treatment with antibiotics is generally successful.

1989, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Cartoon message for Third World children

Kung Fu hero KO's AIDS

'Survivors,' is an imaginative cartoon video to educate hardened street children about the dangers of AIDS.

LONDON: Street kids from Nairobi to New York City, invited to preview a special AIDS education video, laughed, cheered and cried over cartoon characters just like themselves — homeless, and surviving on their wits — who look after each other and learn to protect themselves and their "gang" from AIDS.

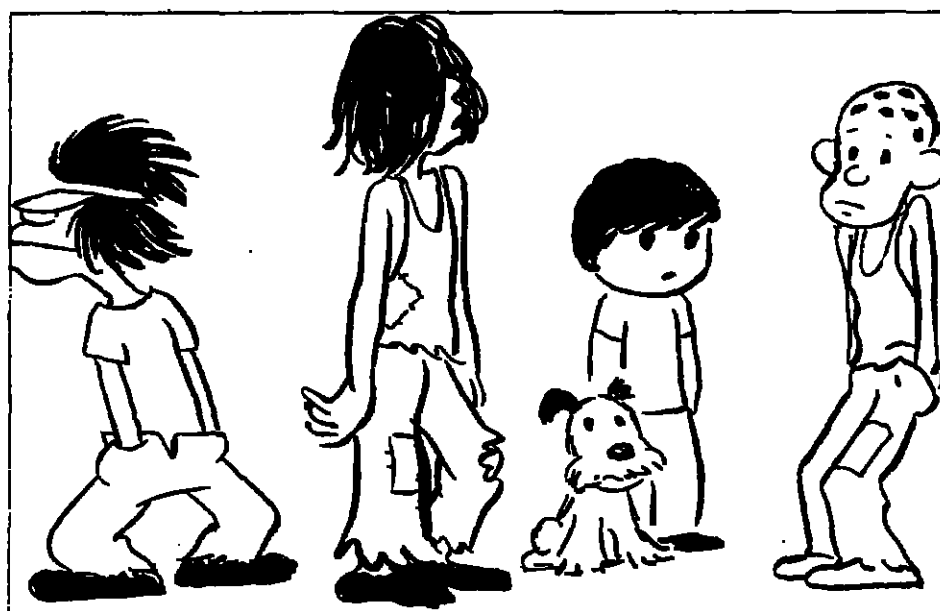
One 12-year-old in the Philippines responded enthusiastically: "It's a film about me and my friends. I like Dingo Dog because he doesn't have a home, and neither do we. (The characters) have choices, and we learn that their choices have consequences... I learned a lot about AIDS, and I learned it's very important to look after your friends."

Real-life The story of the animated film "Survivors" is partly based on real-life adventures of children in Mexico and Guatemala City and tells the story of two boys who juggle in the streets for their livelihood. A sinister and smiling stranger offers one of them money in exchange for sex and the child contracts the virus which causes AIDS and dies. The hero of the film, inspired by Kung fu movie star Bruce Lee, uses the language of self-defence to explain why their friend died and how condoms can protect against HIV.

Special consultant Peter Dalglish, who founded Street Kids International — a bicycle courier service in Sudan's capital city which gives young people an economic alternative to prostitution and other dangerous activities — believes that cartoon animation with a non-judgmental message can effectively communicate vital health prevention information to culturally varied, largely illiterate youthful audiences.

The animation team did their homework and found out that street children traditionally recognise and reject messages directed at them by authority figures such as policemen or doctors with an "I know what's best for you" sermon. The karate hero represents an alternative who speaks their language and reflects their values.

Street kids who confront danger every day in a battle for food and shelter are not likely to be frightened by the spectre of a disease which



A preliminary sketch for "Survivors," an adventure cartoon to teach street children about AIDS.

might kill them in the future. Health educators now realise that a fearful, Grim Reaper image of the virus does not lead to appropriate behaviour change in sex or drug use; in fact, such images may backfire, creating fear and confusion. So film makers appealed to the fierce loyalty of the kids to each other, developing the theme: "protect yourself, protect your friends."

The makers of "Survivors," which is co-produced by Street Kids International and the National Film Board of Canada in close consultation with the World Health Organization's Global Programme on AIDS, are responding to the urgent need to reach an estimated 40 million children and adolescents living rough on the streets of the world's cities, forced into prostitution and theft out of economic necessity and increasingly vulnerable to AIDS. Recent studies in Khartoum and New York showed 7 per cent HIV positivity in street kids; in Brazil, 5-10 per cent.

The cartoon reflects life on those mean streets, where adults play only marginal roles and kids often resort to "comfort sex" among themselves, as well as prostitution. During pre-testing, some youth workers rejected the film's depiction of sexually active kids and worried that a message for condom use

promoted adolescent sexual activity; however, the kids were unfazed and eager for clear, explicit facts about safer sex.

Weapon "This video is a weapon for the frontlines in the battle to save young lives from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases," insists Dalglish. "We have to accept the reality of street-life and inform kids that condoms prevent HIV transmission — with an adult client or with a friend."

Pre-testing the video revealed that street kids are good movie critics: the girls wanted a strong female character; others asked insightful questions which pointed out weak or confusing messages. The final product will emphasise that children can get AIDS from a friend as well as a stranger; that someone can look healthy for years and still carry the virus; and that girls are equally at risk.

The cartoon will first be distributed in Brazil in July, accompanied by a comic book and a teaching guide for youth workers to facilitate a comprehensive and accurate discussion with kids after they watch the video. By the end of 1989 the video will have been distributed in nine more developing countries: Kenya, Mozambique, Zaire, Uganda, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Senegal and Haiti.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Your advice is always so welcome in our home because it always rings true. I know many people write to you to ask about cures for disease, but we think your emphasis on prevention is most important. Now, if you could discuss ways to prevent cancer, you would be doing everyone a service.

ANSWER: If ever I wished I had a simple and complete answer for a question, this would be the one. The problem is that there are so many cancers and so many causes, but there aren't any simple answers.

The basic rules of good health are always a good starting point, and must be emphasized over and over again because they help prevent all kinds of illnesses. Regular physical check-ups, exercise and diet are always important. Researchers also have given us some specific tips that may be useful. Foods high in fiber help lower the risk of colon cancer. Keep the fat content in your diet low to reduce risks of breast, prostate colon and rectal cancer. Avoid unnecessary X-rays, but be quick to permit those that are important for diagnosis and recommended by your physician.

MODERATION IS KEY TIP TO CANCER PREVENTION

There are many risk factors that exist in the workplace so you should become knowledgeable about the materials that you come in contact with and the safe procedures that must be used in handling them. Excessive exposure to the harmful rays of the sun may lead to skin cancer, so keep covered or use appropriate sunscreens when you're outside.

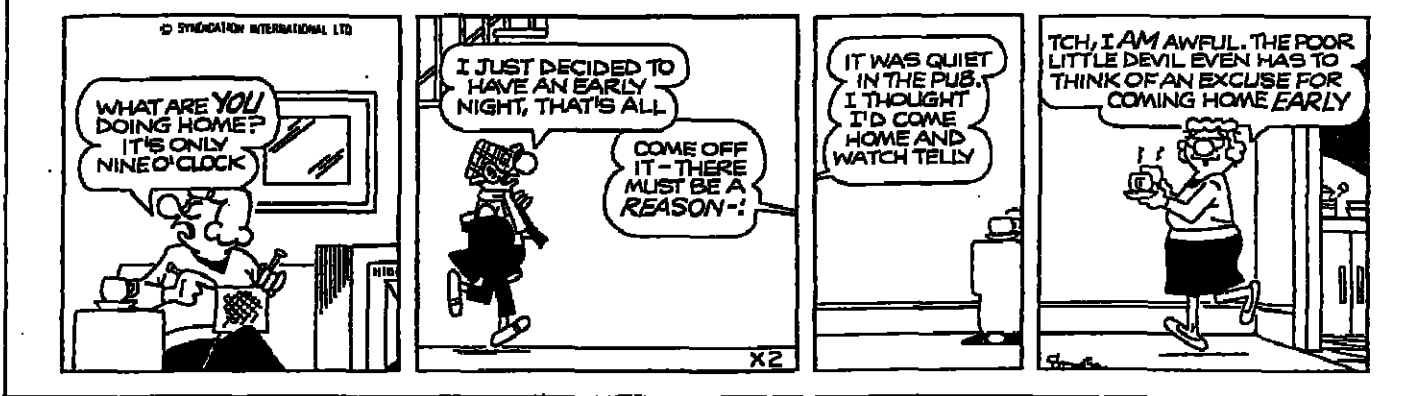
The harm done by smoking is obvious and dramatic, and moving toward a non-smoking society may prevent thousands of needless cases of lung cancer, heart disease and emphysema.

There may be many more such tips, each directed at a specific cancer, but the call for moderation in all things must be one of the most valuable tips one can offer to prevent cancer. One day, I hope I will be able to answer your question more directly, but until then, give these tips a try.

ACROSS MY DESK: The volume of mail about Lyme Disease has grown considerably as the summer months approach. One overwhelming concern seems to be the method by

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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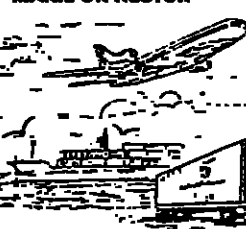
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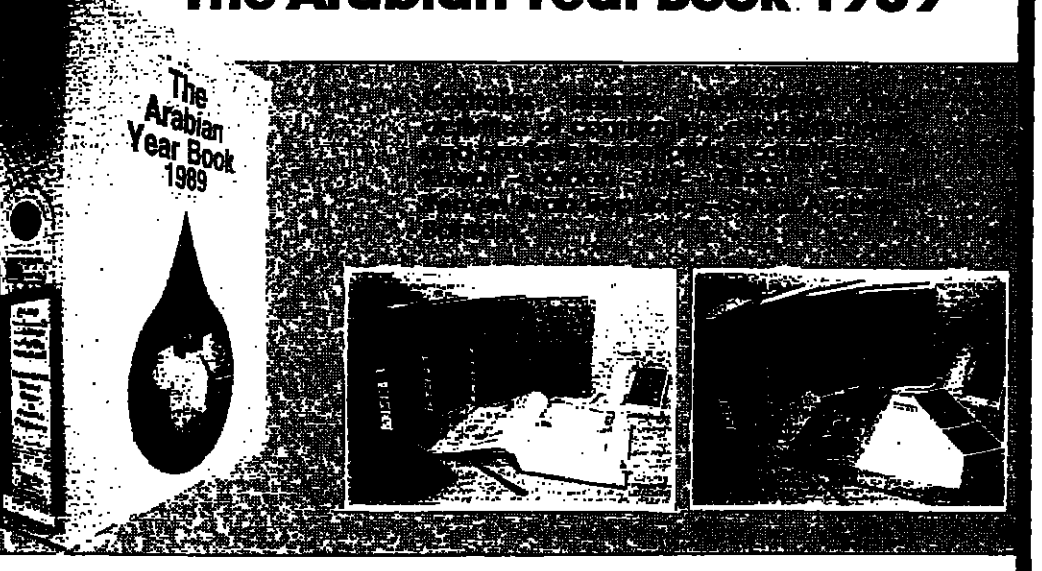
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Two agents sentenced to prison for fraud

CHICAGO, June 20, (AP) — A federal judge yesterday sentenced two sports agents to prison terms of up to five years for signing ballplayers to representation contracts before their eligibility for college athletics had expired.

Narby Walters, 57, received five years in prison, and Lloyd Bloom, 29, three years. US district judge George Marovich also gave them five years' probation.

They were convicted April 13 of racketeering, conspiracy and mail fraud and had faced up to 55 years in prison.

"There were no heroes," Marovich said of the case, subject of a five-week trial.

The judge said the athletes involved were equally guilty of fraud, and he gave "fair warning" to athletes, sports agents, university administrators and others involved in college athletics.

"You may be playing in a different ballgame and it might be called hardball... there is a previously unrecognized player on the field: the rule of law."

The two agents were accused of paying athletes thousands of dollars to sign representation contracts before their college eligibility had expired, a violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules; of threatening athletes to prevent them from breaking the agreements; and of cheating seven major universities out of scholarship money through the NCAA violation, which made the athletes ineligible to play.

Forty-three players who signed with Walters and Bloom avoided prosecution by agreeing to co-operate with the government in addition to performing community service and repaying part of their scholarships to their schools.

"I'm really sorry for all the problems I've caused everyone," Walters told the court, almost whispering and at times choking back tears. "I invested almost a million dollars in this sports business. I lost it all — I lost every penny."

"If I believed for one instant that I was breaking the law, I wouldn't have started," Walters said, adding: "I didn't threaten anybody."

Bloom told the court: "I am deeply sorry for what I've done. If I can be given a second chance I'd like it."

Attorneys for the agents have appealed the convictions.

Lemond gets ready for action again

NEW YORK, June 20, (AP) — It is a hectic time for Greg Lemond, with or without cycling.

The most accomplished US cyclist ever is planning four days of racing this week in Spain, training in the mountains and returning to his home in Belgium for two more races before the Tour de France opens July 1.

"I've never done this at so crucial a point of the season," the 27-year-old cyclist said. "I'll try to minimize the fatigue and follow a European schedule while I'm here — go to sleep at 6 pm, wake up according to European time, which would be 3 am New York time. I'll only be in the US on Friday night through Sunday, so I should be OK."

Why bother with such a testing schedule so close to cycling's premier event, which Lemond won in 1986, the only time an American has taken the Tour de France?

"It's a race I've never done and it's gotten bigger and would be an important title for me to have in my career," says Lemond, the 1983 gold medalist at the World Championships. "I race for the Coors Light team and this is one of the biggest goals of the team, to have a member win this race."

This event, through the streets of Philadelphia, should be a good one for Lemond.

Lemond is beginning to think of championships again after nearly three years of disappointment and injury. He was almost killed in a hunting accident in 1987 while recuperating from a broken hand suffered in an Italian race. Lemond was shot by his brother-in-law, who mistook Lemond's footsteps for those of a wild turkey.

That was followed by an emergency appendectomy and last year, tennisitis in the knees.

This season didn't start much better.

"Since mid-April, I haven't felt 100 per cent," he admits. "I had some disastrous days at the beginning of the Tour de Italy. I was considering quitting it, but then I finished strong."

"That added a lot of confidence and showed me everything is getting to be OK with my body."

Still, Lemond isn't expecting to run away from the field in the Tour de France.

Timman beats Nunn in adjourned game

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 20, (AP) — Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman defeated Britain's John Nunn in their adjourned match in the 12th round of the World Cup chess tournament yesterday.

Timman moved within half a point of former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union in the standings of the \$100,000 tournament.

The outcome had been expected as Nunn was left with a hopeless endgame when the contest was adjourned at the 61st move of a drawn-out battle from a French defence on

Saturday.

Timman, who had black, needed only eight moves in the resumption to convince Nunn that further resistance was useless.

The victory boosted Timman's score to 8 points from the twelve games he has played so far but it was not enough to bring him alongside Karpov, who topped the tournament table with 8 and 1-2 points from eleven games.

With only three games in hand against Karpov's four in the four final rounds of the tournament, Timman's chances of catching

up with the former world champion seemed virtually non-existent.

Raphael Vaganian of the Soviet Union, meanwhile, replaced Nunn in third place after picking up two points from the two adjourned games he completed yesterday.

The Armenian grandmaster first beat Jesus Nogueiras of Cuba in their game held over from the twelfth round and then went on to finish off US grandmaster Yasser Seirawan in their adjourned endgame from Sunday's thirteenth round.

Mets overcome Expos

Johnson, Gooden on top

NEW YORK, June 20, (AP) — Howard Johnson continued his hot hitting and continued to marvel at the success of teammate Dwight Gooden, who became the third youngest pitcher in modern Major League history to win 100 games.

"He's going to be in the Hall of Fame. He has a golden touch," Johnson said last night after hitting two homers in the New York Mets' 5-3 victory over the Montreal Expos. "Dwight is quiet, but he's become one of the leaders on this team."

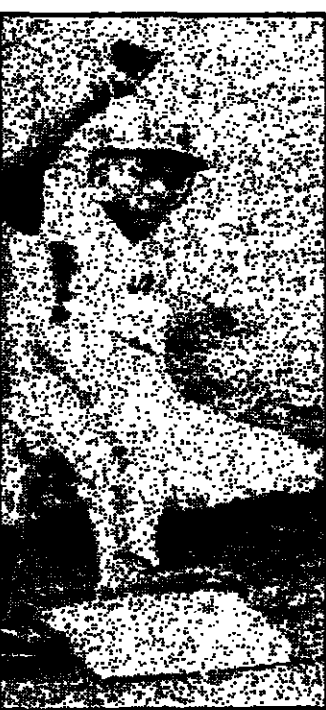
Johnson, who followed walks to Dave Magadan with homers in the first and second innings off Kevin Gross, 6-6, has 18 homers and 42 RBIs. He has hit in 18 of his last 22 games with 10 homers and 17 RBIs.

Gooden, 9-2, improved his lifetime mark to 100-37 at 24 years and seven months. Bob Feller reached 100 victories at 22 in 1941 and Frank "Noodles" Hahn won his 100th game in 1903 at 24 years, two months.

Elsewhere yesterday in the National League, San Diego 5, Los Angeles 1; San Francisco 3, Houston 2.

Padres 5, Dodgers 1.

Shawn Abner hit a three-run homer and Jack Clark a two-run shot off Orel Hersher as the San Diego Padres, behind the six-hit



Dwight Gooden pitching off Eric Show, beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kevin Mitchell increased his Major League-leading RBI total and reliever Steve Bedrosian got his first save for San Francisco as

the Giants beat the Houston Astros.

White Sox 8, Red Sox 2. Carlton Fisk went 4-for-4 and Fred Manrique drove in three runs last night as the Chicago White Sox beat Boston 8-2 and averted a four-game sweep.

Fisk's first four-hit game since Sept. 6, 1985, raised his average to .324 against his former team. He got his 12th career four-hit game.

"If you've got a good swing going it doesn't make any difference who you're hitting against," he said. "I wasn't doing well coming into this game but I got tuned in tonight."

Shawn Hillegas pitched 5 2-3 shutout innings in relief, allowing just three hits, for the victory. Don Pall finished with three scoreless innings for his third save.

Ivan Calderon hit a two-run triple during a six-run third inning against John Dopson, 6-5. In other American League yesterday: Baltimore 6, Seattle 5; Toronto 8, California 1; Detroit 6, Oakland 4; Milwaukee 11; Minnesota 8; Orioles 9, Mariners 5.

Cal Ripken put Baltimore ahead with a three-run homer and Mickey Tettleton followed with his American League-leading 17th home run as the Orioles scored seven times in the seventh

inning and beat the Seattle Mariners.

Blue Jays 8, Angels 1. Junior Felix drove in three runs, two with his sixth homer, and Dave Stieb hurled five-hit ball for six innings for his fourth straight victory as Toronto beat California.

National League East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	37	30	.552	—
New York	35	31	.530	1 1/2
Montreal	36	33	.522	2
St. Louis	33	32	.508	3
Pittsburgh	27	37	.422	8 1/2
Philadelphia	23	41	.359	12 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	41	28	.594	—
Houston	39	30	.562	2
Cincinnati	37	30	.552	3
Los Angeles	34	34	.500	6 1/2
San Diego	34	37	.479	8
Atlanta	27	40	.403	13

American League East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	38	28	.576	—
Cleveland	33	34	.493	5 1/2
New York	33	34	.493	5 1/2
Boston	31	33	.484	6
Milwaukee	32	36	.471	7
Toronto	32	36	.471	7
Detroit	26	41	.388	12 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	42	27	.609	—
California	39	27	.591	1 1/2
Kansas City	39	28	.582	2
Texas	37	30	.552	4
Minnesota	32	35	.478	9
Seattle	32	38	.457	10 1/2
Chicago	23	44	.362	17

Giamatti to oppose motion

Rose asks court to bar hearing

CINCINNATI, June 20, (Reuters) — Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose, under investigation for illegal gambling, asked a court yesterday to bar Major League Baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti from forcing him to appear at a disciplinary hearing.

Giamatti is considering allegations against Rose that he has bet on baseball games. If Giamatti finds the Reds manager guilty of betting on baseball, Rose — baseball's all-time hit leader — could be suspended. If Rose found to have bet on Reds' games, he could be banned from the game for life.

Rose's attorney, Reuben Katz, said Rose has "consistently denied he has ever bet on the Cincinnati Reds or on baseball games."

In his motion filed in Hamilton county common pleas court, Rose asked the entire case be removed from Giamatti's jurisdiction and given to the courts to decide. Judge Norbert Nadel said he probably will hold a hearing today on the temporary restraining order sought by Rose.

Giamatti had set next Monday for the disciplinary hearing.

The Reds manager says the commissioner is biased against him, citing Giamatti's statements praising an Ohio bookmaker for his "significant and truthful co-operation" in the case.

Giamatti also asked a federal judge to treat the bookmaker, Ronald Peters, with leniency on charges of cocaine dealing and tax evasion. Peters was sentenced last week to 24 months in federal prison on those charges.

In a statement released late yesterday, Giamatti said: "Major League Baseball's counsel have reviewed the filings and have advised me that Mr. Rose's lawsuit is wholly without merit. Baseball's counsel will appear (Tuesday morning) in Cincinnati and oppose Mr. Rose's motion."

"I trust the court will permit me to proceed with my hearing," Giamatti said.

Oklahoma's coach quits under fire

NORMAN, Okla., June 20, (Reuters) — Oklahoma University head football coach Barry Switzer, whose football programme is on probation for violating amateur rules including paying money to players, resigned yesterday.

"I have come to the conclusion that my resignation is in the best interest of the football programme, the university and Barry Switzer," he said.

Switzer, fourth on the all-time list of winning college football coaches, said he would stay at the university at least until next spring as a special assistant to the athletic director.

Switzer, 51, was under increasing pressure to resign following the three-year probation imposed last December on the football programme and the arrests of several of his top players on charges including selling drugs, rape and involvement in a shooting.

Switzer denied ever paying a player to come to Oklahoma or giving a university player any money. He did, however, make an impressionable plea for changes to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules prohibiting coaches to aid players.

Since coming to the University of Oklahoma in 1973 Switzer compiled a record of 157-29-4 in 16 seasons. His teams were named national champions three times and won 12 big eight titles.

There is speculation that Switzer may move next to the National Football League.

Leipzig to bid for Olympics

BERLIN, June 20, (AP) — The East German city of Leipzig will bid for the right to stage the 2004 Summer Olympics, East Germany's leader Erich Honecker told a visiting West German politician yesterday.

West Berlin mayor Walter Momper said Honecker told him about Leipzig's plans to bid for the Games during a three-hour meeting in East Berlin.

Momper, briefing reporters on his talks with Honecker, said he had raised the subject of West and East Berlin making a joint bid to share the 2004 Games.

But Honecker replied that East Germany's candidate would be Leipzig, Momper told reporters.

Momper gave no other details. When Ronald Reagan visited West Berlin as US president in June 1987, he proposed that the 2004 Olympics be shared by West and East Berlin.

West German and West Berlin officials have supported the call but East Germany said in 1988 that it had no means to finance the Olympics.

Leipzig, a city of about 580,000 people, is 150 kilometres (95 miles) southwest of Berlin.

Meanwhile, civic leaders in the United States yesterday announced a plan they hope will bring the Summer Olympics to New York in 2004.

"New York City can look forward to seeing the Olympic torch

join the burning torch of our own Statue of Liberty in New York harbour," Mayor Edward Koch said.

Koch spoke at a city hall news conference concerning the formation of the New York City Sports Commission Foundation. The commission will be headed by Gary Susnjara, former president of the advertising firm Saatchi and Saatchi.

The foundation, which plans to raise a \$7 million endowment, will work with the New York City Sports Commission, a public agency created by Koch and the city council in 1986.

Susnjara said the project will attempt to draw profitable sports events to the city.

Al Hajri to take part in New Zealand Rally

SAEED AL HAJRI, the 32-year-old former Middle East champion from Qatar, adds yet another first to his long list of accolades when he starts the Rothmans Rally of New Zealand on July 15.

Al Hajri will become the first Arab driver to contest a round of the World Rally Championship in the Southern Hemisphere, when he and British co-driver, Steve Bond, lineup the Rothmans Ford Sierra Cosworth for the 2,000 kms test of endurance.

For Al Hajri, this is the latest in a lengthy list of firsts. He became the first Arab to tackle a World Championship Rally in 1984, when he took a Rothmans Rally Team Porsche 911 SC to the Acropolis Rally in Greece. That year he retired when the Porsche's gearbox broke, but he returned a year later to take fifth place overall.

1984 also saw him finish in the top 20 of the World Championship Rally Lombard RAC Rally of Great Britain, returning to Britain a year later to take eighth place overall in the European Championship Scottish Rally.



Al Hajri (left) with Steve Bond.

Al Hajri tackled the pace-noted New Zealand Rally calling on the experience of six former Middle East Championship titles: Group 1 wins in 1979 and 1980, Gulf Championship victories in 1983 and 1984 and FISA Champion in 1984 and 1985.

Always ready to take on a new

challenge, Al Hajri drove the four-wheel-drive Porsche 959 to a debut victory in the Egyptian Pharaohs Rally, and tackled his first all-aspalt event in Ireland when he finished second overall in a Porsche 911 SC.

New Zealand will be a fresh challenge for the amiable Qatari,

who has already tasted victory this year by winning the hotly contested Qatar International Rally in February driving the Ford Sierra Cosworth, built and prepared by David Suttom Motorsport in Britain.

"I have already driven many kilometres over gravel roads in



Kayak championships

Andrej Grobisa (left) and Srecko Masle, both from Yugoslavia, paddle to victory in the Wilerand two-man canoe event at the 1989 World Whitewater Canoe/Kayak Championships being held on the Savage River, Maryland, United States. The championship will continue throughout this week, finishing with the World Slalom Championships, June 24-25. (Reuters wirephoto).

Janet aims at winning return in Grand Prix



Janet crossing a barrier

FRESH from their brilliant team victory in the Nations Cup earlier this month, several of Britain's leading showjumpers face a tough international challenge at the All England Jumping Course at Hickstead on Sunday, June 25, in the Dubai Cup, Europe's richest Grand Prix.

Sponsored by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, the Dubai Cup carries prize money totalling \$54,000 and has, as usual, attracted many of the world's best riders.

Among the overseas entries are leading American rider George Morris, Ireland's Paul Darragh and John Hall, Jos Lansink from Holland and Bruce Godwin and Ann Wilson from New Zealand. A number of German competitors are expected, including Ludger Beerbaum who won the Dubai Cup last year.

But the popular choice to take the coveted trophy and the \$18,000 first prize would be Janet Hunter, the 25-year-old Scottish girl who finished second in 1988 on Lisnamarrow.

Janet has mixed memories of that event. Although she jumped brilliantly to finish runner-up, Lisnamarrow suffered an injury that put the great horse out of competition for eight months and abruptly ended Janet's realistic expectations of representing Britain in the 1988 Olympics at Seoul.

"The bottom fell out of my world, but at least I still had Lisnamarrow," said Janet. "He struck a front tendon with a hindfoot and was bruised so severely that he had to be rested for eight months."

The 13-year-old gelding, given to Janet as a 21st birthday present four years ago, then went down with a virus but the pair emerged in tremendous style last Saturday to win the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at the Royal International Horse Show at Birmingham. Illustrating that both horse and rider were back in peak condition, they produced three clear rounds for their second Queen's Cup victory.

A similar performance in the Dubai Cup on Sunday would not only delight the crowds, but would guarantee the pair's selection for British team efforts abroad later in the year.

This will be Dubai's fifth year of involvement in the major Hickstead show and Emirates will entertain many of Britain's leading travel agents and tour operators at the two-day meeting which opens on Saturday with the Fly Emirates Stakes, a qualifier for Sunday's Dubai Cup.

Breu retains overall lead in cycling race

AROSA, Switzerland, June 20, (AP) — Kurt Steinmann won yesterday's leg in the Tour of Switzerland road cycling race, topping off a 180-kilometre (112 miles) solo effort. Countryman Beat Breu retained the yellow jersey of overall leader.

Joined by Fabio Roscioli, Steinmann dashed ahead after 20 kilometres (12 miles) and built up a margin of more than 16 minutes before the field began to chase him.

With Roscioli dropping back, the Swiss managed to hold onto his lead on the uphill windup section leading to this Alpine resort, 1,739 meters high (10,812 feet).

He finished in 5 hours 33.31 minutes, 15 minutes ahead of the race schedule, for an average of 36.519 kilometers per hour (22.7 mph).

Golf course owner ready to shoot 'birdie'

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters) — Golf course owner Elwyn Harris is under pressure to shoot a birdie — literally.

A giant crow which swoops at the first hole and steals balls is proving the biggest handicap at his nine-hole course in Wales.

The bird, named Charlie by locals, strikes at all times of the day, leaving members with little to crow about.

Harris said: "No-one can believe it. He must have done it dozens and dozens of times. He probably thinks the balls are eggs."

"Some think we should shoot him but I think he's a bit of a character."

A bird expert at London zoo said: "Crows are egg-eaters and he probably thinks the balls are eggs. They have a very powerful beak and will eat almost anything."

Mandarich may fight Tyson for world title

MILWAUKEE, June 20, (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King and billionaire Donald Trump have shown new interest in a proposed fight between heavyweight champ Mike Tyson and Tony Mandarich, draft pick of pro football's Green Bay Packers, an agent says.

Agent Vern Sharbaugh, who represents Mandarich, said he met for more than two hours last week with King at the promoter's headquarters in Orwell, Ohio.

"I was encouraged simply by the fact that we met," Sharbaugh said in an interview yesterday in the Milwaukee Sentinel newspaper. "If King wasn't at all interested, we never would have met."

Mandarich, a 6-foot-5 (195-centimetre), 310-pound (140-kilogramme) football player from Michigan State University, was the second pick in the recent National Football League draft but has

not signed a contract.

Mandarich has said he wants \$10 million to fight Tyson. No financial terms have been discussed with King, Sharbaugh said.

But Bill Cayton, Tyson's estranged manager, said yesterday in New York that "there's not a change the fight will happen."

"It's ridiculous. He (Mandarich) can't fight. He's never fought."

Tyson is in litigation to break his managerial contract with Cayton, but as of now Cayton must approve Tyson's opponents.

King has said previously he opposed a fight between Mandarich and Tyson because it would be unfair to let a football player have a chance to fight the world champion ahead of other professional boxers.

The promoter could not be immediately reached for comment yesterday.

Lewis, teammates barred from British meet

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 20. (AP): Olympic champion Carl Lewis and three track club teammates have been barred from an international track meet this weekend by the sport's US governing body, British officials said today.

The British Amateur Athletics Board said it had been told by the Athletics Con-

gress, US track's ruling federation, that Lewis and three other members of the Santa Monica Track Club had been refused permission to compete.

The United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany and Britain meet at Alexandra stadium Friday and Saturday in one

of the major events of the European track season. Lewis, Olympic 200-metre champion Joe DeLoach, Floyd Heard and Danny Everett, all from Santa Monica TC, boycotted the US Track and Field Championships last weekend, where the US team was picked.

The four Californians planned to run at Birmingham as an independent squad to try to break the world record in the 800-metre relay. They would have run against four national teams including the British squad led by Linford Christie, who finished second to Lewis in the Olympic 100 metres last summer.

Lendl faces awkward opener

Edberg and Becker could meet in final again



Michael Chang

LONDON, June 20. (Reuters): Title favourite Stefan Edberg, the defending champion, and Boris Becker could meet in the Wimbledon men's final for the second year running after coming out in opposite halves of the draw yesterday.

West German Becker, the third seed beaten in four sets by Edberg in the 1988 final, faces another likely repeat of last year, a semifinal against world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia.

If the seedings work out, Edberg, whose serve-and-volley game is ideally suited to grass, will play fellow-Swede Mats Wilander, like Lendl a player who prefers clay but shares the Czechoslovak's burning ambition to win Wimbledon at least once.

But Wilander, the fourth seed, has a minefield to pass through in the shape of former champion John McEnroe, seeded fifth in his attempt to win Wimbledon a fourth time.

Becker, Wimbledon champion as a 17-year-old in 1985 and again a year later, and Lendl, who has never won the world's oldest tournament and is top-seeded this time despite his sparse grass court success, wound up in the half of the draw which also contained seventh-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, Lendl's projected quarterfinal opponent.

But Lendl has an awkward opening match against Nicolas Pereira, the Venezuelan who defeated Edberg in the first round of the London Grass Court Championship a week ago.

Becker's expected quarterfinal opponent is Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, the sixth seed. Steffi Graf of West Germany, overwhelming favourite to retain the women's title, was less than kindly treated by the draw.

She has a fourth-round encounter awaiting her against Yugoslav Monica Seles, the 15-year-old who took her to three

sets in the semifinals of the French Open 12 days ago, and then a quarterfinal against Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez.

Sanchez, 17, beat Graf in the final of the French Open, the West German's first singles defeat in a Grand Slam tournament since she lost to Martina Navratilova in the final of the 1987 US Open.

But Graf may relish a return meeting with Sanchez on Wimbledon's fast grass, a surface the Spaniard does not like. She has never travelled beyond the first round at Wimbledon.

Navratilova and Chris Evert, seeded second and fourth respectively, must reach the final if they are to have their 10th singles meeting at Wimbledon.

In other words Evert, competing at Wimbledon since 1972, would have to beat Graf in the semifinals, and unlikely achievement given the American's waning form this year. Navratilova, seeking a record

ninth singles titles, is seeded to play third-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinals.

Michael Chang, the 17-year-old American, who beat Lendl and Edberg on his way to a shock victory in the French Open nine days ago, suffered four defeats on grass in the Netherlands last week and is not expected to make the impact at Wimbledon he did in Paris.

It would be unwise to write off completely the chances of such a relentless retriever but even his resistance is unlikely to survive on a surface which favours the heavy hitters.

Ninth-seeded Chang is due to play American Tim Mayotte in the fourth round but he may perish even before that with Michael Schapers, the 1.97-metre-tall Dutchman, looming as a third-round opponent.

Should he survive against expectations, Chang would come up against Edberg in the quarterfinals.

Wimbledon organisers defy ATP

LONDON, June 20. (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl was yesterday named top seed for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships 24 hours after winning his first tournament on grass.

The organisers appointed Czechoslovak Lendl the man to beat when Wimbledon begins next Monday after his victory in the London grasscourt final at Queen's Club on Sunday.

But Lendl's seeding was the one major concession to players' demands that the seedings mirror the world rankings.

Defending champion Stefan Edberg was named second seed, despite his world number three ranking, with West German world number two and twice champion Boris Becker seeded third.

And 17-year-old French Open champion Michael Chang was named ninth seed despite being ranked sixth in the world.

Those rated above him included American veteran John McEnroe, Wimbledon champion in 1981, 1983 and 1984 but currently ranked eighth in the world, who was seeded fifth.

The seedings committee stuck to the world rankings in compiling the women's list. West German Steffi Graf, Grand Slam and Olympic champion last year, was predictably named top seed with American Martina Navratilova, bidding for a record ninth title, seeded second and Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini third.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the players' union, had called on Wimbledon to base their seedings on the world rankings. But the committee clearly took account on faster grass courts into account before announcing their list of 16 men's seeds.

According to the ATP, hard-court specialist Chang, surprise winner of the French Open eight days ago, should have been seeded fifth in the absence of world number four Andre Agassi.

But Switzerland's world number nine Jakob Hlasek, Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir, the world number 10, and world number 12 Tim Mayotte of the United States have all been placed above him.

Royal Ascot horse races

ASCOT, England, June 20. (Reuters): Results of feature races on the first day of the four-day Royal Ascot horse race meeting yesterday.

Queen Anne Stakes (Group Two) over one mile:
1. Warning 5-2 on favourite (ridden by Pat Eddery)
2. Reprimand 6-1 (Steve Cauthen)
3. Sweet Chesne 11-1 (Paul Eddery)
Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group Two) over one mile and a quarter:
1. Beau Star 15-1 (Bruce Raymond)
2. Most Welcome 4-6 favourite (Paul Eddery)

Navratilova and Evert sail through

Top seeds drop only two games apiece

EASTBOURNE, England, June 20. (Reuters): World number two Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert dropped only two games apiece today as they eased into the third round of the Eastbourne Women's Grasscourt Tennis Championships, the traditional warm-up for Wimbledon.

Navratilova was relaxed after her 6-0 6-2 defeat of American Ronni Reis but refused to look ahead to her attempt to win back the Wimbledon title she held for six years.

"I am playing Eastbourne. I can't think about Wimbledon — I can't even think beyond the match ahead," she said.

Navratilova, 32, and defending champion here, has started working with Billie Jean King recently and credits the former Wimbledon champion with helping her to rediscover the fun in tennis.

"You have to enjoy the process otherwise the moment of victory is hollow," the top-seeded Navratilova said.

The American was certainly enjoying herself in the sunshine on the centre court at Eastbourne's Devonshire Park against hapless fellow left-hander Reis and she sealed victory with an ace on matchpoint.

"If I could bottle today I would be happy," said Navratilova who will be seeded second at Wimbledon, behind Steffi Graf — an absentee here. "Today everything came together nicely."

Second-seeded Evert, who has not won here since 1979, was equally ruthless against British left-hander Sara Gomer, winning 6-2 6-0 — although she had a little more trouble clinching the winning point.

Gomer had won only six points in the first five games of

the second set but then saved two matchpoints, helped by an Evert double fault on the second. But the British woman put a backhand out on the third.

Results
Akiko Kijimuta (Japan) beat 8-Claudia Kohde-Kilsch (West Germany) 6-4 6-3. 3-Zina Garrison (US) beat Diane Balesatral (Australia) 6-2 6-4. Catherine Tanvier (France) beat Wendy White (US) 7-6 6-2. Elizabeth Smylie (Australia) beat Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) 3-6 6-4 6-4. Larisa Savchenko (Soviet Union) beat Louise Field (Australia) 6-2 7-5. Etoko Inoue (Japan) beat Jenny Byrne (Australia) 5-7 6-4 6-1. 1-Martina Navratilova (US) beat Ronni Reis (US) 6-0 6-2. 4-Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) beat Robin White (US) 6-4 6-4. 7-Mary-Jose Fernandez (Britain) 6-1 6-3. 12-Nathalie Tauziat (France) beat Camille Benjamin (US) 6-2 6-3. Shaun Stafford (US) beat 11-Katarina Lindqvist (Sweden) 6-0 6-4. Gigi Fernandez (US) beat Isabelle Demongeot (France) 6-1 6-3.



Navratilova

Christie recommends helpline

LONDON, June 20. (Reuters): Britain's Olympic 100 metres silver medalist Linford Christie has recommended setting up a telephone helpline to give athletes advice on drugs.

A report from a British Olympic Association (BOA) working party on drugs said it "warmly welcomed the suggestions of Linford Christie and his offers of active help ... in particular his suggestions of a competitors' drugs line."

The working party suggested a drugs helpline be set up to give information on which drugs could be taken both on prescription and over the counter.

The report, released yesterday, also proposed

setting up a database listing banned drugs.

Christie was cleared of doping at last year's Seoul Olympics by the International Olympic Committee after traces of a stimulant were found in his urine sample.

"I have never forgotten, nor ever will, what a terrible experience it was to have won a medal for Britain and then have it tainted in that way," Christie said.

"I have realised ever since how much most of us in this country were missing out on education about drugs."

Gary Lineker

BARCELONA, Spain, June 20. (Reuters): Negotiations over England striker Gary Lineker continued today with Barcelona asking for half a million dollars more than Tottenham's offer, a Barcelona spokesman said.

"It's a purely economic matter. They've made their offer but Barcelona wants more, it's as simple as that," said the spokesman.

He added a decision on Lineker's future should be reached later this evening.

Johnson not alone in steroid use: doctor

'Millions of American athletes use drugs'



Johnson: got bad advice

guess that he received some bad advice," Kerr told reporters after completing his testimony.

Johnson was stripped of his gold medal in the 100-metre sprint at last year's Olympics

after testing positive for the banned anabolic steroid stanozolol.

The subsequent controversy prompted the government's inquiry into drug use in amateur sport. Johnson last week admitted to the inquiry that he had taken steroids.

Kerr, a physician practising in San Gabriel, California, said he prescribed anabolic steroids to amateur and professional athletes for close to 20 years.

He said he stopped working with the banned muscle-building drugs five years ago, when it became clear that most of his athletes were also obtaining anabolic steroids from black market sources, and he could do nothing to stop them.

As many as 20 medal-winning athletes at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles had received anabolic steroids from Kerr, the inquiry heard.

Kerr said he estimated that millions of American athletes, at all levels, professional and amateur, were using anabolic steroids and that the vast majority get these drugs from black market sources rather than from doctors.



Warren Hegg



Phillip DeFreitas

Hegg and DeFreitas rescue Lancashire

LONDON, June 20. (Reuters): A thunderous ninth wicket stand of 133 between wicketkeeper Warren Hegg and discarded England pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas rescued Lancashire after they collapsed to 59 for eight in the English County Cricket championship yesterday.

The partnership between Hegg, who hit 73, and DeFreitas, with 59, took only 79 minutes and lifted their side to 196 all out against Glamorgan, who had made 297 for nine declared.

Fast-medium bowler Steve Watkins, who started Lancashire's slump with three wickets late on the first day at Old Trafford, captured three more on the second morning to have six for 23 in 14 overs.

Lancashire needed a further 89 to save the follow-on with two wickets left when Hegg and DeFreitas joined forces, and the pair hauled their side out of trouble in exhilarating style as Hegg completed his half century from 57 balls.

Glamorgan, 101 ahead on first innings, scored 186 for five by the close to extend their overall lead to 297.

Somerset were also revived by a stirring fightback, in the face of the highest championship score of the season — 526 for seven declared by Kent at Bath.

After sliding to 73 for five, Somerset recovered through an unfinished sixth wicket partnership of 201 between Richard Harden, who scored an unbeaten 102, and captain Vic Marks, with 89 not out.

The pair, who came together after seamer Alan Igglesden had claimed three wickets for one run, lifted Somerset to 274 for 5 at the close of the second day when they needed another 103 to save the follow-on.

Marks hit his highest championship score for three seasons, while Harden reached his second century of the summer, off 228 balls and in 232 minutes, with his 14th four.

England opener Graham Gooch warmed up for the second Test against Australia at Lord's starting on Thursday by hitting an unbeaten 124 for Essex against Leicestershire at Chelmsford.

Gooch, who faced 217 balls and struck 14 fours, shared an unbroken third wicket stand of 192 with Mark Waugh, twin brother of Australian Test all-rounder Steve. Essex's Waugh hit 89 not out before Gooch made a challenging declaration 115 behind at 262 for two.

Scores
At the Oval: Surrey 226 in 98 overs and 105 for three (A. Stewart 43 not out). Middlesex 225 in 78 overs (D. Haynes 64). At Haringey: Yorkshire 220 in 92.3 overs and 98 for one (M. Monson 50 not out). Gloucestershire 279 in 97.5 overs (J. Lloyds 42, I. Butcher 49, W. Athey 81). At Derby: Derbyshire 342 (B. Maher 97, A. Doddams five for 112). Sussex 346 for seven in 97 overs (J. Gould 62, N. Lenzham 62, A. Wells 60, C. Wells 58). At Bath: Kent 526 for seven declared (C. Cowdrey 65, V. Marks four for 146). Somerset 274 for five in 96 overs (R. Harden 102 not out, V. Marks 89 not out, S. Cook 49). At Chelmsford: Leicestershire 377 for eight declared and 95 for one (R. Cobb 45 not out). Essex 262 for two declared in 76 overs (G. Gooch 124 not out, M. Waugh 89 not out). At Old Trafford: Glamorgan 279 for nine declared and 186 for five (A. Butcher 89). Lancashire 196 in 47.2 overs (W. Hegg 73, P. DeFreitas 59, S. Watkins seven for 63).

Maradona renews threat to leave Cup champions

NAPLES, Italy, June 20. (Reuters): An outraged Diego Maradona yesterday renewed threats to leave UEFA Cup winners Napoli, slandering fans as "cretins" after they whistled him from the pitch in Sunday's goalless draw against bottom club Pisa.

The Argentine World Cup star quit the Italian First Division game with a muscle injury in the 17th minute but thousands of fans, interpreting his exit as petulance, submitted him to a barrage of jeers he had experienced only once before in five years at the club.

"The people who whistled are ignorant cretins. I don't allow anyone to doubt my professionalism," Maradona told a private television station in Naples.

"I want to stay at Napoli but if Napoli's peace of mind has got to

depend on me... then I say what I have already said in the past... that if need be I am ready to go," he said.

Maradona, who is contracted to Napoli until 1993, said he had reaffirmed that offer on Sunday to club president Corrado Ferlaino and general manager Luciano Moggi.

Sunday's incident prompted Maradona to leave the stadium at halftime and appeared to have fuelled bitterness within the club.

Trainer Ottavio Bianchi, target of a players' mutiny last year, is widely expected to part ways with Napoli at the end of June after four years in which they have won the UEFA Cup and, in 1987, the club's first Italian League title.

Maradona, whose relationship with Bianchi has been troubled, said it was up to Ferlaino to decide Bianchi's future but he added that he wanted him to stay.

"Imagine what would happen if Bianchi went and we were to lose a match next season. Given what happened yesterday I would have to flee in a helicopter," he said.

Lazaroni makes fresh plea

BASLE, Switzerland, June 20. (Reuters): Brazil's soccer coach, Sebastiao Lazaroni, shaken by two successive defeats on his European tour, has made a fresh plea to Italian clubs for the release of their Brazilian recruits.

Lazaroni said on Brazil's arrival last night for a friendly against Switzerland tomorrow that his makeshift squad, without key players due to club commitments, was totally exhausted after a strenuous domestic season.

Brazil were beaten 2-1 by Sweden last Friday and thrashed 4-0 two days later by Denmark during a triangular tournament in Copenhagen.

Lazaroni said: "I know the players would prefer to return home at once and go on holiday. I had Bebeto and other top players from Flamengo and Botafogo available when we beat Portugal 4-0 recently, but they could not make the trip because of vital championship matches."

The Brazilian coach said he still hoped Napoli's Alemão, Zita from Pescara and Dunga from Fiorentina would be released by their Italian clubs.

Lazaroni, former coach of Flamengo and Vasco da Gama who was put in charge of Brazil five months ago, said: "There is a permanent fire under my trainer's seat. The last thing I want is another defeat."

History is on his side. Switzerland have never beaten Brazil in five encounters.

Italian players suggest strike against violence

MILAN, Italy, June 20. (AP): Leading Italian soccer players said yesterday they are prepared to stage a strike to protest escalating fan violence.

Some officials suggested that matches posing problems for public order be played in empty stadiums.

Radical solutions were prompted by the latest outburst of soccer hooliganism in the host country of the 1990 World Cup.

On Sunday six people suffered burns following a firebomb attack in Florence against a trainload of Bologna fans. Two of the injured, 14-year-old Ivan Dall'oglio and 21-year-old Massimo Accorsi, are hospitalised in critical condition.

Police announced that four fans of the Florence team, aged 18 to 25, have been arrested in connection with the train attack, hours before the Fiorentina-Bologna Major League match. They face charges of attempted manslaughter.

Following the train ambush, groups of Bologna fans went on a rampage through downtown streets in Florence, vandalising parked cars and shop windows.

Captains of several Italian Major League teams announced following a meeting in Milan that professional soccer players were ready to stop the championship to protest growing violence.

Euro-basketball

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, June 20. (Reuters): Results on the first day of the European Men's basketball Championship today. France beat Bulgaria 109-78 (halftime 59-30). Scores: France — Richard Daoucy 32, Gregor Beugnot 18, Stephanie Ostrowski 14, Hervé Du Buisson 14, Eric Ocasany 10, Saeed Jackson 6, Freddy Hufnagel 5, Stephane Lauerger 4, Georges Vestra 4, Jim Bibba 2. Bulgaria — Cvetan Antov 19, Sacho Veznekov 12, Georgi Glouchkov 9, Venzislav Slavov 9, Lyubomir Amiorokov 9, Emil Ienov 7, Ivan Tzenov 5, Jordan Kolev 5, Georgi Mladenov 3.

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